

The water-basins of the Old Red Sandstone might be supposed to have been, on the whole, singularly devoid of life; for remains of it have been but meagrely preserved. Never-

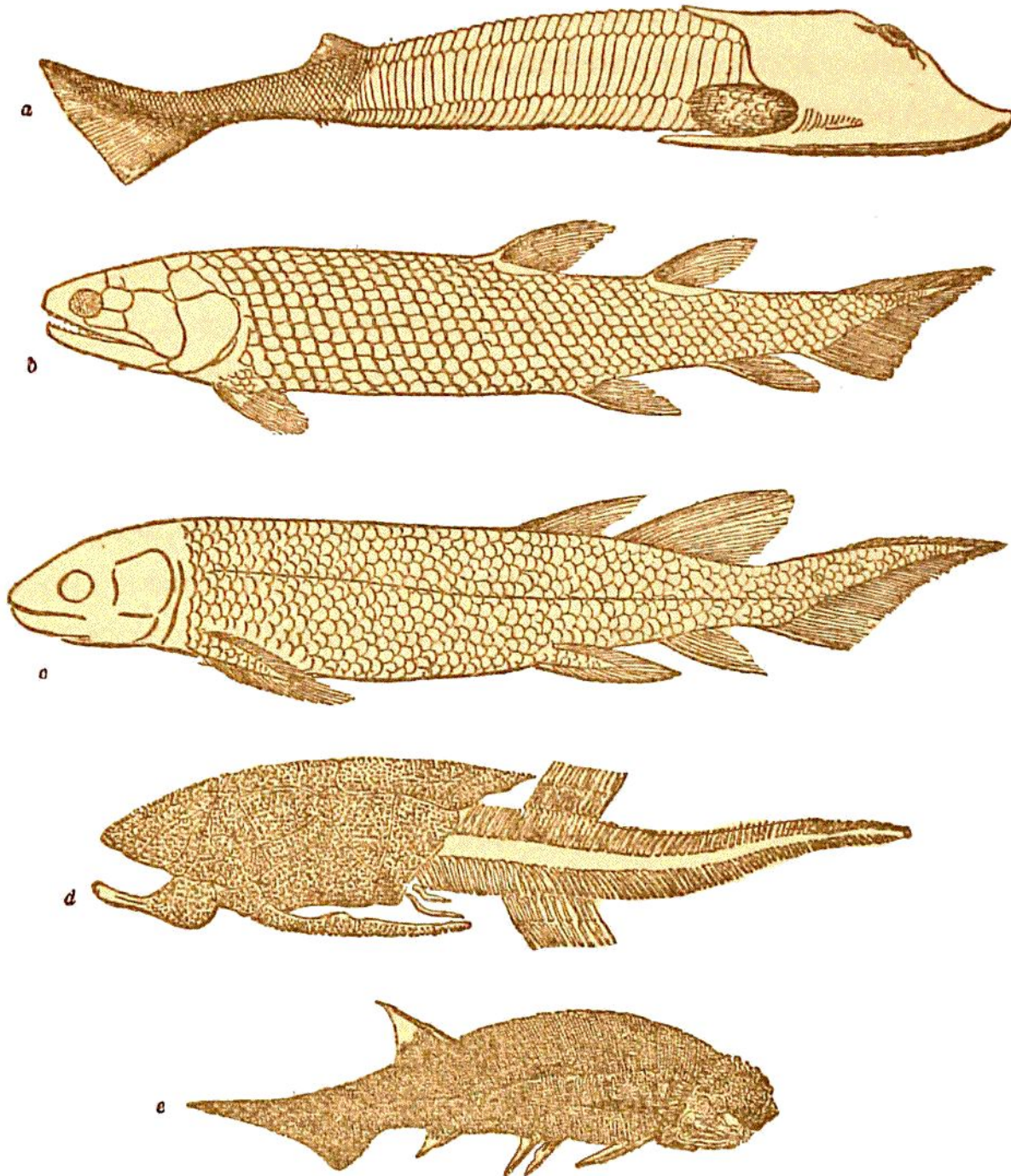


Fig. 351.—Lower Old Red Sandstone Fishes.

*a*, *Cephalaspis Lyelli*, Ag. (side view), restored by Professor Ray Lankester; *b*, *Osteolepis microlepidotus*, Sedgw. and Murch., restored by Dr. Traquair; *c*, *Dipterus Valenciennesii*, Sedgw. and Murch., from a sketch by Dr. Traquair; *d*, *Coccosteus decipiens*, Ag.; *e*, *Mesacanthus (Acanthodes) Mitchelli*, Eg., Forfarshire, from a sketch by Mr. B. N. Peach.

theless, in some basins at least (Caithness, Moray Firth), it must have been exceedingly abundant, as is shown by the extraordinary profusion of the fossils. The fauna consists