

habit of venturing more freely to sea than the gavial of the Ganges or the crocodile of the Nile. Of the long-extinct reptilian types, one of the most remarkable was that of the enaliosaurs or sea-lizards. One of these, the Ichthyosaurus (Fig. 396, *a*), was a creature with a fish-like body, two pairs of strong swimming paddles, probably a vertical tail-fin, and a head joined to the body without any distinct neck, but furnished with two large eyes, having a ring of bony plates round the eyeball, and with teeth that had no distinct sockets. Some of the skeletons

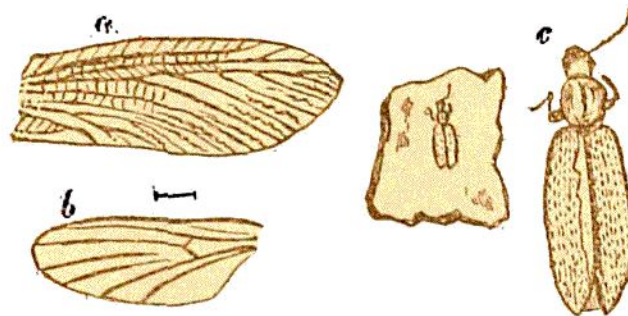


Fig. 395.—Insects, Purbeck Beds.

*a, b*, Wings of Neuropterous Insects (*Corydalid*) (nat. size and mag.); *c*, *Carabus elongatus* (nat. size and mag. Brodie, "Foss. Insects," pl. ii. and v.)

of this creature exceed 24 feet in length. Contemporaneous with it was the Plesiosaurus (Fig. 396, *b*), distinguished by its long neck, the larger size of its paddles, the smaller size of its head, and the insertion of its teeth in special sockets, as in the higher saurians. These creatures seem to have haunted the shallow Liassic seas, and, varying in species with the ages, to have survived till toward the close of Mesozoic time.<sup>50</sup> The genus Pliosaurus, related to the last-named, was distinguishable from it by the shortness of its neck and the proportionately large size of its head. Another extraordinary reptilian type was that of

<sup>50</sup> On the distribution of the Plesiosaurs see a table by G. F. Whidborne, Q. J. Geol. Soc. 1881, p. 480.