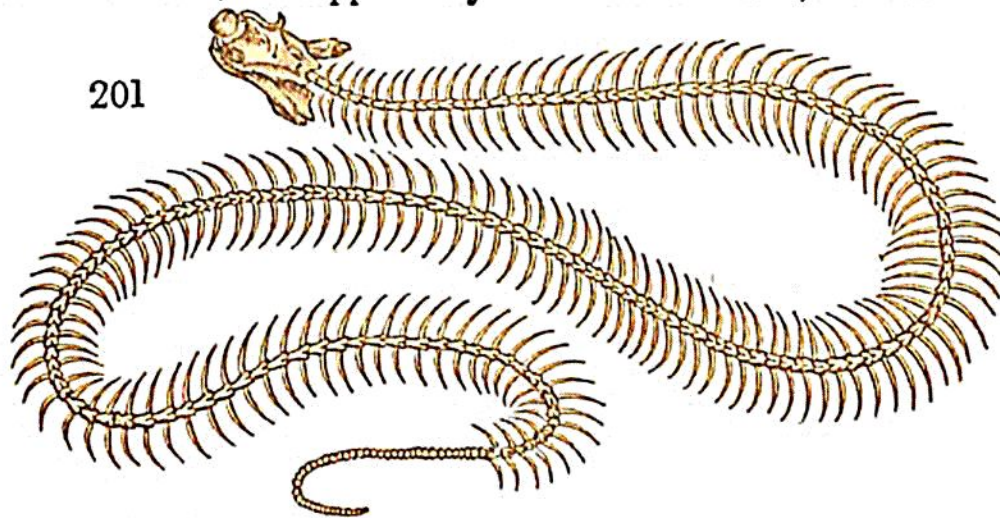


tremities of the salamander make their appearance earlier than the hind legs, and the tail remains as a permanent part of the structure. The rudimental ribs are exceedingly small, and the sternum continues cartilaginous. The pelvis has no osseous connexion with the spine, but is merely suspended to it by ligaments. The land salamanders have a rounded tail, but the aquatic species, or *Tritons*, have it compressed vertically; thus retaining the fish-like form of the tadpole, and the same radiated disposition of the muscles.

§ 3. Ophidia.

IN the class of serpents we see exemplified the greatest possible state of simplicity to which a vertebrated skeleton can be reduced; for, as may be seen in Fig. 201, which shows the skeleton of a viper, it consists merely of a lengthened spinal column, with a head but little developed, and a series of ribs; but apparently destitute of limbs, and of the



bones which usually connect those limbs with the trunk; there being neither sternum, nor scapula, nor pelvis. Professor Mayer has, however, traced obscure rudiments of pelvic bones in the *Anguis fragilis*, the *Anguis ventralis*, and the *Typhlops crocotatus*, and is of opinion that they exist much more generally in this order of reptiles than has been commonly imagined. Some serpents, as the *Boa*, *Python*, *Tortryx*, and *Eryx*, have claws, which may be considered as rudiments of feet, visible externally. In others, as the *Anguis*, *Typhlops*, and *Amphisbæna*, they exist concealed under