the horizontal distance between the extremities of the two transverse processes, being twenty inches. If to this we add the thickness of the muscles and tendons, and of the shelly integument, the diameter of the tail, at its largest end, must have been at least two feet; and its circumference, supposing it to be nearly circular like the tail of the Armadillo, about six feet. These vast dimensions are not larger in proportion to the adjacent parts of the body, than those of the tail of the Armadillo, and as this animal applies its tail, to aid in supporting the weight of its body and armour, it is probable that the Megatherium made a similar use of the same organ.* To the caudal vertebræ were attached also large inferior spines, or additional Chevron bones, which must have added to the strength of the tail, in assisting to support the body. The tail also probably served for a formidable instrument of defence, as in the Pangolins and Crocodiles. In 1822, Sellow saw portions of armour that had covered a tail, found near Monte Video.

The ribs are more substantial, and much thicker, and shorter, than those of the Elephant

* The tail of the Elephant is remarkably light and slender, with a tuft of coarse hair at its extremity, to brush off flies; that of the Hippopotamus is a few inches only in length, and flattened vertically, to act as a small rudder in swimming.