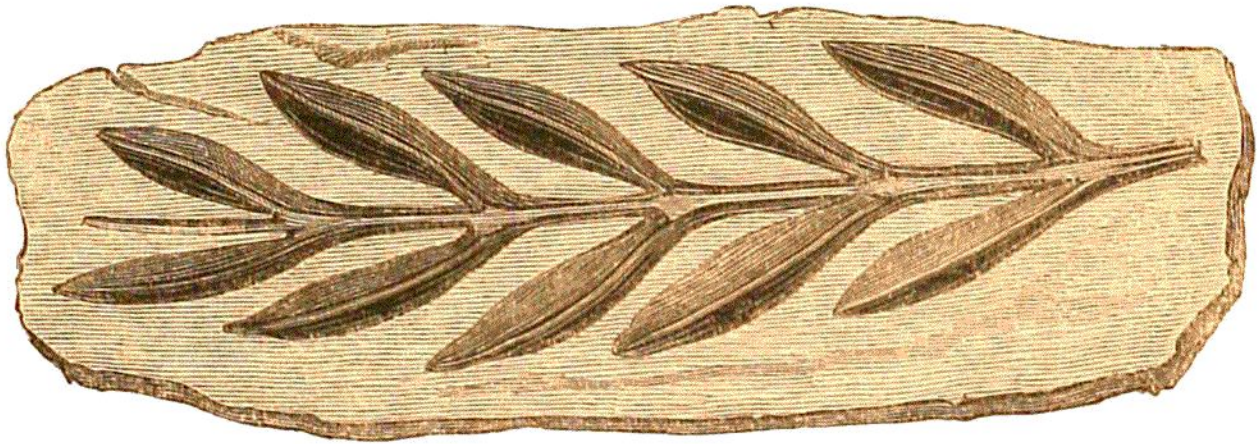


are pinnated, or bipinnated; the leaflets entire, without visible veins, having but a single midrib, and being contracted at the base. The absence of veins, and the leaflets not being lobed, are the essential distinctions of this genus.



LIGN. 10.

PACHYPTERIS LANCEOLATA.

*Inferior Oolite. Whitby.*

SPHENOPTERIS (*wedge-leaf fern*). *Lign. 11.*—The leaves are twice or thrice pinnated, the leaflets *contracted* at their base, and more or less deeply lobed: the lobes divergent and palmated: the veins radiating from the base.

The plants of this genus are extremely elegant, and comprise upwards of forty species. The Wealden has yielded three or four species, which have not been discovered in any other formation. (*Wond.* p. 379. *Geol. S. E.* p. 239.) An elegant form (*S. affinis*, *Wond.* p. 653.) occurs abundantly in the fresh-water strata of the mountain limestone, at