small, and in others large. They have numerous brush-teeth. Several peculiar species, found in the slates and magnesian limestones of the Triassic, or New Red system, are very widely distributed, occurring in Scotland, England, Germany, and the United States.*

In some localities the small species occur in groups; on the surface of a slab of stone, from Armagh, not exceeding two feet square, between two and three hundred perfect fishes are imbedded (*Ly.* II. p. 99.).

A remarkable circumstance relating to the fishes of this genus is the almost constant absence of the bodies of the vertebræ, in otherwise well-preserved specimens, and in which the spinal processes and the ribs are entire. As occasionally examples occur with some of the vertebræ perfect, M. Agassiz imputes the absence of these bones in other instances to some physical agency, which destroyed the bodies of the vertebræ, and left the ribs and processes entire. A more satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon may perhaps be found in the probable original cartilaginous nature of the bodies of the vertebræ, and the osseous structure of the enduring apophyses and ribs;† while those rare specimens

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* I have received beautiful examples from my friend, Benjamin Silliman, jun. Esq. of Yale College, the highly intelligent junior editor of the American Journal of Science.

† Professor Owen states that a similar condition of the spinal column obtains in the fossil Microdonts.—*Report Brit. Assoc.*