fibres of the *corium*, or skin, and seems to have resulted from an ossified condition of the dermal integument. These bones vary from half an inch to three or four inches in diameter, and were disposed in one or more longitudinal series on each side the spine, diminishing in size as they approach the end of the tail.

DERMAL SPINES. *Lign.* 140. fig. 4.—With the dermal bones above described there are associated in the Hylæosaurus, flat, thin, angular, osseous plates, from three to seventeen inches in length; one of which is figured *Lign.* 140. fig. 4. The manner in which they are imbedded in the first discovered specimen of the Hylæosaurus, is shown *Wond.* Pl. IV. and *Geol. S. E.* Pl. V. These very remarkable processes appear to me to have formed part of a serrated fringe, which extended along the back of the reptile, analogous to that observable in certain living lizards (*Wond.* p. 402.).*

* The attention of the collector of Wealden fossils should be particularly directed to the discovery of some of these bones, in natural juxtaposition with other parts of the skeleton; for Professor Owen, although admitting the probability of my conjecture, suggests that they should rather be regarded as abdominal ribs: but it appears to me, among other reasons, (such, for example, as the unusual thickness of the spinous process of the dorsal vertebræ,) that the circumstance of these bones never occurring in pairs, and no two agreeing either in size or form, is unfavourable to such a hypothesis. See Prof. Owen's Remarks on the Dermal Spines of the Hylæosaurus; Brit. Rep. 1841, p. 115.