

anatomists, has since been corroborated by the observations of MM. Valenciennes and Owen. The last-mentioned naturalist has shown that the bones referred to belonged to an extinct genus, having considerable affinity to a newly-discovered Australian mammifer, the *Myrmecobius* of Waterhouse, which has nine molar teeth in the lower jaw. (See fig. 5.)



Fig. 5.
Myrmecobius fasciatus (Waterhouse). Recent from Swan River. Lower jaw of the natural size.*

the teeth with the opossums. (See fig. 6.)

Another of the fossil quadrupeds from the oolitic slate of Stonesfield consists of a smaller species of the same genus, and has been named *Amphitherium Broderipii* by Owen. The third is referable to a distinct genus, agreeing much more nearly in osteological character and precisely in the number of

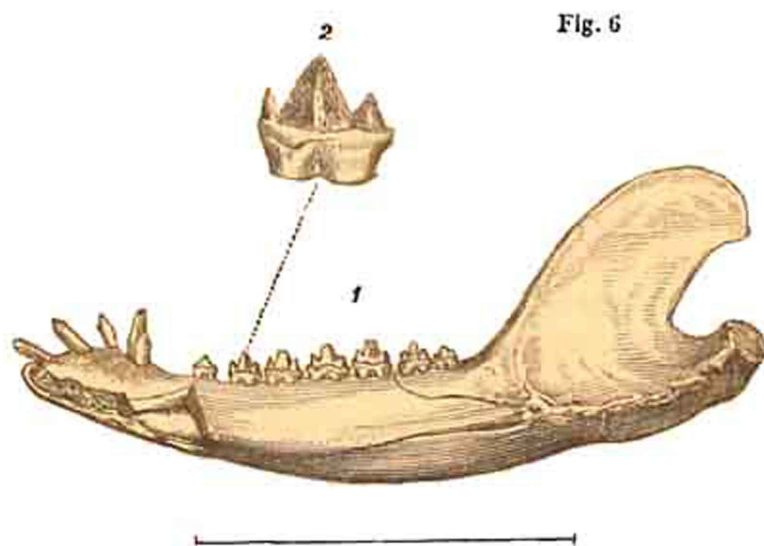


Fig. 6

Phascolotherium Bucklandi, Owen. (Syn. *Didelphis Bucklandi*, Brod.)
Lower jaw, from Stonesfield.†

1. The jaw magnified twice in length. 2. The second molar tooth magnified six times.

The occurrence of these individuals, the most ancient memorials yet known of the mammiferous type, so low down in the oolitic series,

* A coloured figure of this small and elegant quadruped is given in the Trans. Zool. Soc. vol. ii. pl. 28. It is insectivorous, and was taken in a hollow tree, in a country abounding in ant-hills, ninety miles to the south-east of the mouth of Swan River in Australia.—It is the first living marsupial species known to have nine molar teeth in the lower jaw, and some of the teeth are widely separated from others, one of the peculiarities in the *Thylacotherium* of Stonesfield, which at first induced M. Blainville to refer that creature to the class of reptiles.

† This figure (No. 6.) was taken from the original, formerly in Mr. Broderip's collection, and now in the British Mu-

seum. It consists of the right half of a lower jaw, of which the inner side is seen. The jaw contains seven molar teeth, one canine, and three incisors; but the end of the jaw is fractured, and traces of the alveolus of a fourth incisor are seen. With this addition, the number of teeth would agree exactly with those of a lower jaw of a *Didelphis*. The fossil is well preserved in a slab of oolitic structure containing shells of *Trigonia* and other marine remains. Two or three other similar jaws, besides those above represented, have been procured from the quarries of Stonesfield.—See Broderip, Zool. Journ. vol. iii. p. 408. Owen, Proceedings Geol. Soc., November, 1838.