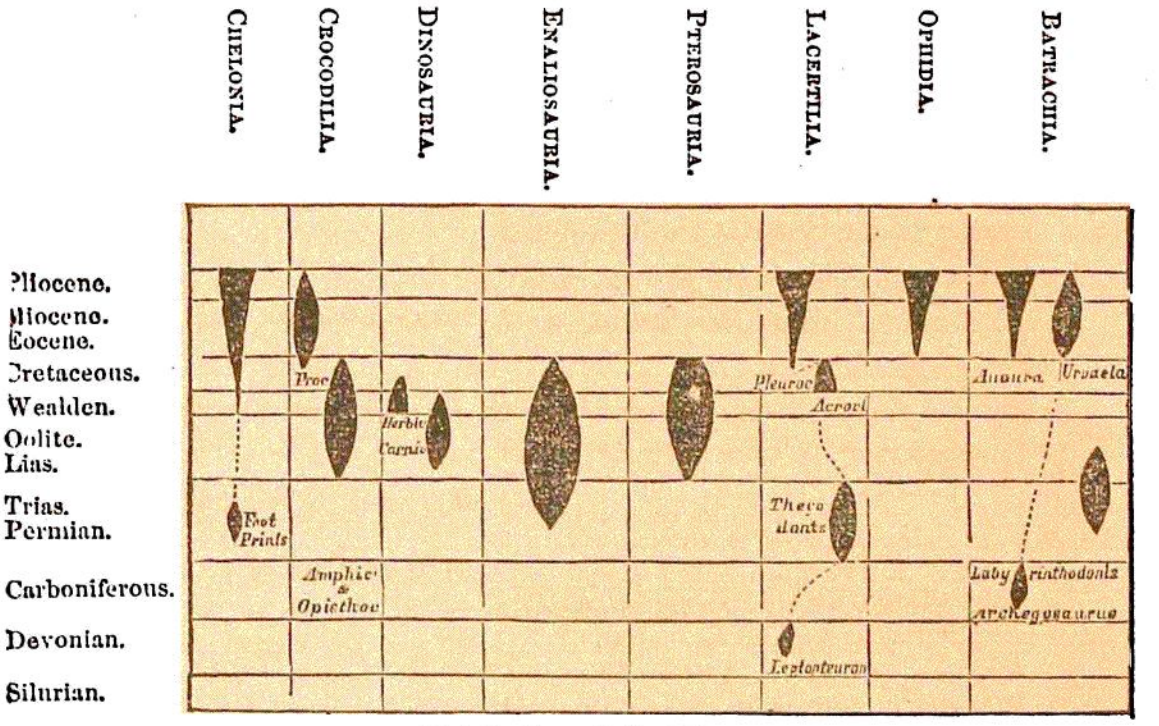
commencement, expansion, diminution, and extinction. The Chelonia, Lacertilia, Ophidia, and some of the Batrachia, are shown as on the increase at the commencement of the alluvial period; while the Crocodiles and some of the Batrachia then nearly died out. Several of the orders became extinct at the close of the cretaceous period.

Fig. 410.



Distribution of Reptiles.

Indeed, Prof. Owen says that "the class of reptiles, unlike that of fishes, is now on the wane; and that the period when Reptilia flourished under the greatest diversity of forms, with the highest grade of structure, and of the most colossal size, is the mesozoic."

D'Orbigny finds that of seventy-seven orders of fossil animals fourteen have decreased in the number of their genera since their first appearance, and sixty-four have increased. These are distributed as follows:

	Decreasing.	Increasing.
Radiated animals	4	12
Molluscs	4	10
Annelids	1	18
Vertebral kingdom	5	23

Of these decreasing orders six are found in the palæozoic rocks, viz., the Placoid and Ganoid Fishes, the Trilobites, a part of the Cephalopod and Brachiopod Molluscs, and the fixed Crinoids. In the Jurassic series occur the Saurian Reptiles and the free Crinoids. In the Cretaceous series, two families of Molluscs, one of Foraminiferæ and one of Amorphozoa. In the tertiary series are the Edentate and Pachydermatous Mammals.

The greatest expansion of particular and peculiar Faunas and Floras has been employed to characterize certain periods. Thus the Palæozoic Period has been called by the botanists the Reign of Acrogens, because that tribe of plants then predominated; the Mesozoic Period, the Reign of Gymnosperms; and the Tertiary Period, embracing also the living plants, the Reign of Angiosperms. In respect to animals, the Palæozoic Period has been called the Reign of Fishes, the Mesozoic the Reign of Reptiles, and the Tertiary the Reign of Mammals.