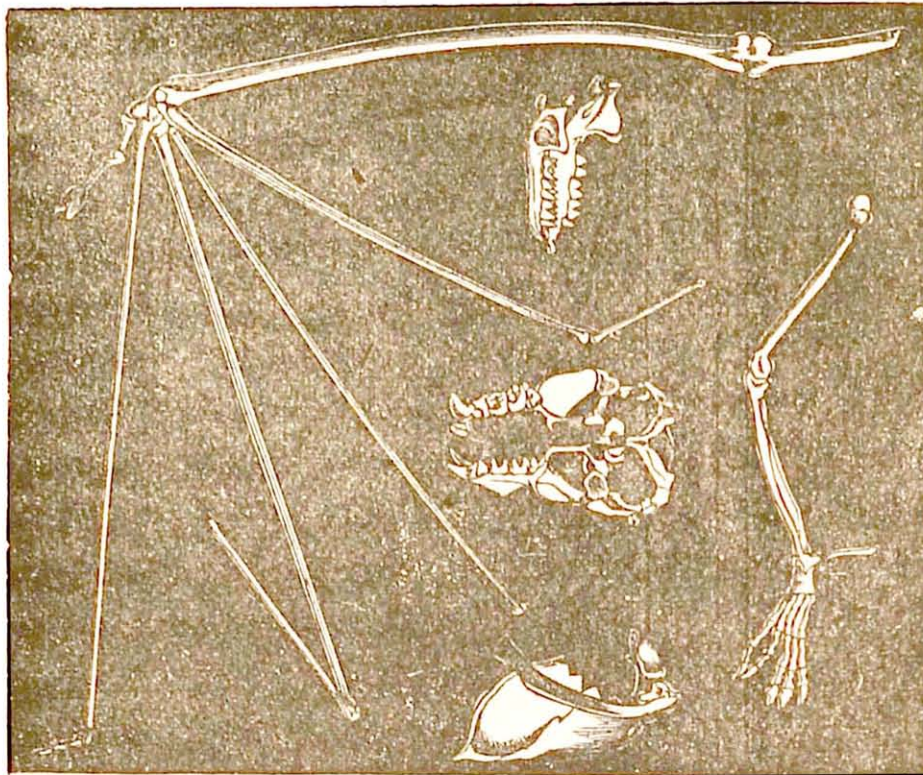
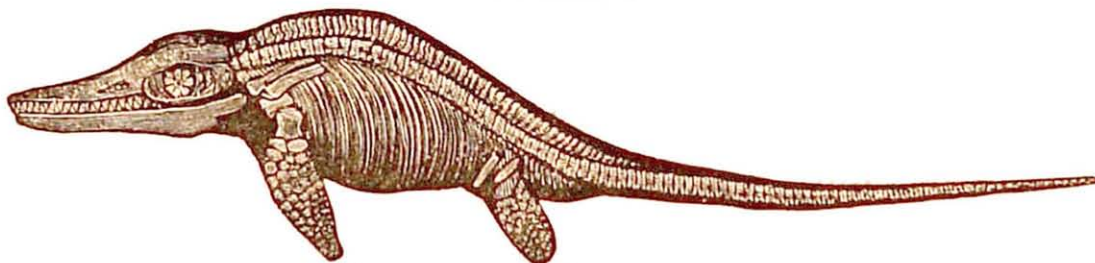


Fig. 61.



VESPERTILIO PARISIENSIS.
A Bat of the Eocene.

Fig. 62.



ICHTHYOSAURUS COMMUNIS.
(Lias.)

reduced class of fishes ; its pterodactyles—dragons as strange as were ever feigned by romancer of the middle ages, and that to the jaws and teeth of the crocodile added the wings of a bat and the body and tail of an ordinary mammal—had the “power of the air,” and, pursuing the fleetest insects in their flight, captured and bore them down ;* its lakes and rivers

* Some of these *dragons* of the Secondary ages were of very considerable size. The wings of a pterodactyle of the Chalk, in the possession of Mr Bowerbank, must have had a spread of about eighteen feet ; those of a