

ciently matured and strong enough to battle with the world, emerges from its warm retreat, and enters fully into life and light ; the process being a sort of middle course between oviparous generation, in which the animals are hatched from eggs after exclusion from the mother's body, like Birds ; and viviparous, in which the animals are brought forth alive, as in the ordinary Mammals.

In standard works on natural history the animals under consideration are classed as *mammiferous Didelphæ*. They are brought forth in an imperfect state, and during their transitional condition are suckled in a pouch supported by bones called *marsupial*, which are attached by their extremities to the pelvis, and serve to support the marsupium, whence the animals provided with these provisions for bringing up their progeny are called *Marsupial Mammals*. The Opossum, Kangaroo, and Ornithorhynchus are existing representatives of this group.

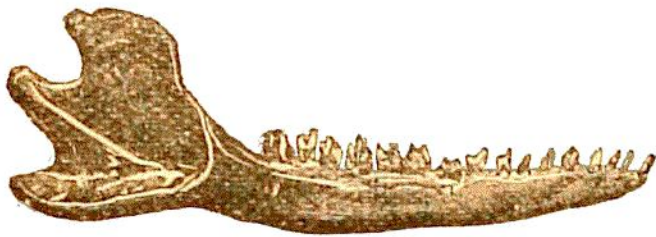


Fig. 110.—Jaw of Thylacotherium Prevostii.



Fig. 111.—Jaw of Phascolotherium.

The name of *Thylacotherium*, or *Amphitherium*, or *Phascolotherium*, is given to the first of these marsupial Mammals which made their appearance, whose remains have been discovered in the Lower Oolite, and in one of its higher stages, namely, that called the *Great Oolite*. Fig. 110 represents the jaw of the first of these animals, and Fig. 111 the other—both of the natural size. These jaw-bones represent all that has been found belonging to these early marsupial animals ; and Baron Cuvier and Professor Owen have both decided as to their origin. The first was found in the Stonesfield quarries. The Phascolotherium, also a Stonesfield fossil, was the ornament of Mr. Broderip's collection. The animals which lived on the land during the Lower Oolitic period would be nearly the same with those of the Liassic. The insects were, perhaps, more numerous.

The marine fauna included Reptiles, Fishes, Molluscs, and Zoophytes. Among the first were the Pterodactyle, and a great Saurian, the Teleosaurus, belonging to a family which made its appearance in this age, and which reappears in the following epoch.