

mountains; they were intersected here and there by large lakes, with flat and uniform banks. The vegetation on their shores was very abundant, and we possess its remains in great numbers. The Keuper Flora was very analogous to those of the Lias and Oolite, and consisted of Ferns, Equisetaceæ, Cycads, Conifers, and a few plants, which M. Ad. Brongniart classes among the dubious monocotyledons. Among the Ferns may be quoted many species of *Sphenopteris* or *Pecopteris*. Among them, *Pecopteris Stuttgartiensis*, a tree with channelled trunk, which rises to a considerable height without throwing out branches, and terminates in a crown of leaves finely cut and with long petioles; the *Equisetites columnaris*, a great Equisetum analogous to the horse-tails of our age, but of infinitely larger dimen-

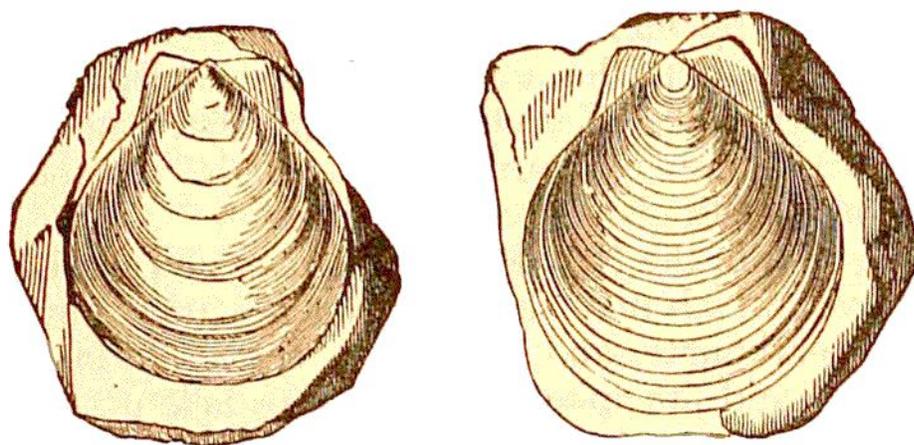


Fig. 85.—*Pecten orbicularis*.

sions, its long fluted trunk, surmounted by an elongated fructification, towering over all the other trees of the marshy soil.

The *Pterophyllum Jägeri* and *P. Münsteri* represented the Cycads, the *Taxodites Münsterianus* represented the Conifers, and, finally, the trunk of the Calamites was covered with a creeping plant, having elliptical leaves, with a re-curving nervature borne upon its long petioles, and the fruit disposed in bunches; this is the *Preissleria antiqua*, a doubtful monocotyledon, according to Brongniart, but M. Unger places it in the family of *Smilax*, of which it will thus be the earliest representative. The same botanist classes with the canes a marsh-plant very common in this period, the *Palaeoxyris Münsteri*, which Brongniart classes with the *Preissleria* among his doubtful Monocotyledons.

The vegetation of the latter part of the Triassic period is thus characterised by Lecoq, in his "Botanical Geography": "The cellular