Victor Carus, of Leipzig, in the Introduction to his excellent "System of Animal Morphology,"[9] published in 1853, makes the following remark: "The organisms buried in the most ancient geological strata must be looked upon as the ancestors from whom the rich diversity of forms of the present creation have originated by continued generation, and by accommodation to progressive and very different conditions of life."

In the same year (1853) Schaaffhausen, the anthropologist of Bonn, in an Essay "On the Permanence and Transformation of Species," declared himself decidedly in favour of the Theory of Descent. According to him, the living species of animals and plants are the transformed descendants of extinct species, from which they have arisen by gradual modification. The divergence or separation of the most nearly allied species takes place by the destruction of the connecting intermediate stages. Schaaffhausen also maintained the origin of the human race from animals, and its gradual development from ape-like animals, the most important deduction from the Doctrine of Filiation.

Lastly, we have still to mention among the German Nature-philosophers the name of Louis Büchner, who, in his celebrated work, "Force and Matter" (1855), also independently developed the principles of the Theory of Descent, taking his stand mainly on the ground of the undeniable evidences of facts which are furnished by the palæontological and individual development of organisms, as well as by their comparative anatomy and by the parallelism of these series of development. Büchner showed very clearly that, even from such data alone, the derivation of the different organic species from common primary forms followed as a necessary