

in the two sub-classes of Marsupials. According to this, about eight orders of Marsupial animals may be distinguished, the one half of the main group or legion of which are herbivorous, the other half carnivorous. The oldest fossil remains of the two legions (if the previously mentioned *Microlestes* and the *Dromatherium* are not included) occur in the Jurassic strata, namely, in the slates of Stonesfield, near Oxford. The slates belong to the Bath, or the Lower Oolite formation—strata which lie directly above the Lias, the oldest Jura formation. (Compare p. 15). It is true that the remains of Marsupials found in the slates of Stonesfield, as well as those which were found later in the Purbeck strata, consist only of lower jaws. (Compare p. 29.) But fortunately the lower jaw is just one of the most characteristic parts of the skeleton of Marsupials. For it is distinguished by a hook-shaped process of the lower corner of the jaw turning downwards and backwards, which neither occurs in Placental nor in the (still living) Cloacal animals, and from the existence of this process on the lower jaws from Stonesfield, we may infer that they belonged to Marsupials.

Of *Herbivorous marsupials* (*Botanophaga*), only two fossils are as yet known from the Jura, namely, the *Stereognathus ooliticus*, from the slates of Stonesfield (Lower Oolite), and the *Plagiaulax Becklesii*, from the middle Purbeck strata (Upper Oolite). But in Australia there are gigantic fossil remains of extinct herbivorous Marsupials from the diluvial period (*Diprotodon* and *Nototherium*) which were far larger than the largest of the still living Marsupials. The *Diprotodon Australis*, whose skull alone is three feet long, exceeded even the river-horse, or *Hippopotamus*, in size and upon the