

sediment must have determined the distribution of life on the floor of the Cambrian sea in that region, and doubtless has also affected the extent of the final preservation of organisms actually entombed. In North America, on the other hand, where thick sheets of Cambrian limestone occur, the conditions of sedimentation have been far more favorable for the preservation of organic forms; hence the known

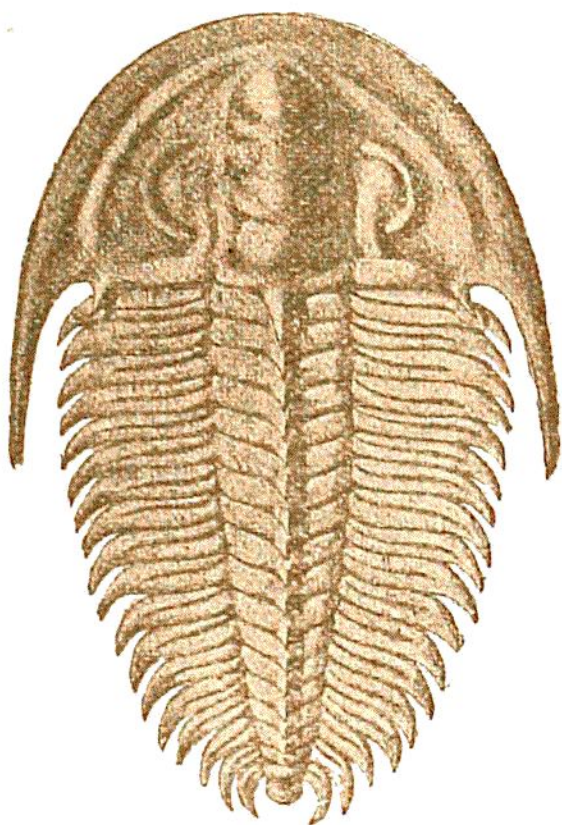


Fig. 336.—*Olenellus* (*O. Callavei*, restored by Lapworth), the characteristic genus of the lowest Cambrian strata (ab.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

Cambrian fauna of this region exceeds in numerical value that of Europe.

The plants of the Cambrian period have been scarcely at all preserved. No vestige of any land plant of this age has yet been detected. That the sea then possessed its seaweeds, can hardly be doubted, and various fucoid-like markings on slates and sandstones (*e.g.* the so-called fucoids of the "fucoid-beds" of N.W. Scotland, and of the "fucoidal sandstone" of Scandinavia) have been referred to the

vegetable kingdom. The genus *Eophyton*<sup>5</sup> from Sweden, and others from the Potsdam sandstone of North America, have been described as plants. There seems to be little doubt, however, that of these various markings some are tracks, probably of worms, others are merely imitative

<sup>5</sup> See G. J. Hinde, *Geol. Mag.* 1886, p. 337; the "fucoids" of the "fucoid-beds" of N.W. Scotland are undoubtedly worm-casts.