

Lepidodendron.*

The genus *Lepidodendron* comprehends many species of fossil plants, which are of large size, and of very frequent occurrence in the Coal formation. In some points of their structure they have been compared to Coniferæ, but in other respects and in their general appearance, with the exception of their great size, they very much resemble the *Lycopodiaceæ*, or *Club Moss* Tribe. (See Pl. 1. Figs. 9. 10.). This tribe at the present day, contains no species more than three feet high, but the greater part of them are weak, or creeping plants, while their earliest fossil representatives appear to have attained the dimensions of Forest Trees.†

Existing *Lycopodiaceæ* follow nearly the same law as ferns and *Equisetaceæ*, in respect of geographical distribution; being largest and most abundant in hot and humid situations within the Tropics, especially in small islands. The belief that *Lepidodendra* were allied to the *Lycopo-*

* Pl. 1. Figs. 11. 12. and Pl. 55, Figs. 1. 2. 3.

† Prof. Lindley states that the affinities of existing *Lycopodiaceæ* are intermediate between Ferns and Coniferæ on the one hand, and Ferns and Mosses on the other; They are related to Ferns in the want of sexual apparatus, and in the abundance of annular ducts contained in their axis; to Coniferæ, in the aspect of the stems of some of the larger kinds; and to Mosses in their whole appearance.