

of the British Museum.<sup>1</sup> The crania have characters which distinguish them from the other genera of the same family and which approach in some degree to the characters of *Cystophora*, so that *Ommatophoca* is a well-marked genus. It approximates to *Cystophora* in the vertical direction of the anterior nares, in their relation to the infraorbital foramina, and in the shortness of the ascending part of the premaxilla, so that a definite part of the anterior nares is bounded by the superior maxilla. In the great width of the orbits and of the skull in the interzygomatic region they also approach each other. On the other hand the nasals are much longer in *Ommatophoca* than in *Cystophora*, and the superior maxillæ articulate with their outer border as far as the tip, and do not leave the anterior part of this border free; the palate plates of the palate bones are much shorter in *Ommatophoca* than in *Cystophora*, and they differ from each other in the number of lower incisors and in the shape of the crowns of the post-canine teeth.

*Monachus*, Fleming.<sup>2</sup>

Premaxilla articulating with side of nasal; anterior nares oblique and a short distance in front of the infraorbital foramina; no postorbital process. Nasals not greatly elongated. Inner wall of orbit defective; zygomata expanded and the width greater than cranial width. Hard palate slightly emarginate, the posterior border considerably behind maxillary root of zygoma and some distance in front of the hamulars, which are rudimentary, and well in front of the anterior border of the glenoid fossæ; the posterior border of vomer just visible in palatal cleft, and arching forwards to join vomerine crest about junction of superior maxilla and palate. Pterygoids everted and running almost horizontally forwards, with large foramen between the upper border and the basis cranii; the interpterygoid width considerable. Tympanic bulla swollen, scarcely ridged, apex truncated; basi-occipital perforated mesially; mastoid low; par-occipital prominent; occipital condyles confluent. Dentition—in.  $\frac{2-2}{2-2}$ , c.  $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$ , p. c.  $\frac{5-5}{5-5} = 32$ .

<sup>1</sup> The description of *Ommatophoca* and *Monachus* has been written from the crania in this Museum, and I am indebted to Professor W. H. Flower, C.B., for permission to examine these and other crania of the Seals in the national collection.

<sup>2</sup> The generic name *Monachus* was suggested by Dr. Fleming in 1822. In a footnote to his *Philosophy of Zoology*, vol. i. p. 187, he says, "Some Seals as *Phoca monachus* are said to have four incisors in each jaw. Such will probably be constituted into a new genus under the title *Monachus*." In 1827, F. Cuvier used the name *Pelagios* (*Mém. Mus. Hist. Nat.*, t. xi. p. 196), and in 1829 (*Dict. d. Sci. Nat.*, t. lix.) *Pelagius*, but Fleming's name has obtained general use for this Mediterranean Seal.