

CHAP. III.

*Of the Definition of the External Characters of
Fossils.*

§. 32.

WHAT External Characters are, and how many other kinds there are, has been already mentioned in the 1st Chapter. It was there also shewn that, with respect to the purposes of describing and distinguishing Fossils, the External Characters are preferable to the other, and hence are those which peculiarly appertain to Oryctognosy. But to apply them to the description of Fossils, and to the External, or Oryctognostical knowledge of them to be derived from the descriptions, necessarily requires—that they be defined as accurately as possible.

§. 33.

For how can a student in Oryctognosy obtain correct External conceptions of Fossils from their descriptions, if unacquainted with the true meaning of the different External Characters which are the foundation of those descriptions? This indefiniteness is still increased when Oryctognostical writers bestow different denominations on the same character, so that two different persons frequently
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