

“ the cold protracts their genial appetite till
“ April, but it generally begins about the mid-
“ dle of March. The male is usually of a
“ greyish brown colour; the female is more
“ inclining to yellow, speckled with brown,
“ When they couple their colours are nearly
“ alike on the back, but as they change their
“ skins almost every eighth day, the old one
“ falling off in the form of mucus, the male
“ becomes more yellow, and the female more
“ brown. In the males the arms and legs are
“ much stronger than in the females; and at
“ the time of coupling they have, upon their
“ thumbs, a kind of fleshy excrescence; this
“ Linnæus supposed to be the male instrument
“ of generation, but, by closer inspection, it
“ is found only of service in holding the fe-
“ male in a more strict embrace; as it may be
“ cut off without impairing the impregnation,
“ and besides, it is sometimes found in the op-
“ posite sex.

“ The frogs only couple once a year, and
“ then continue united sometimes for four
“ days together. At this time they have both
“ their bellies greatly swollen; that of the fe-
“ male being filled with eggs, and the male
“ having the skin of its whole body distended
“ with