

Salamanders are fond of cold damp places, thick shades, tufted woods, or high mountains, and the banks of streams that run through meadows: they sometimes retire in great numbers to hollow trees, hedges, and below old rotten stumps. They pass the winter in places of high latitude, in a kind of burrows, where they are found collected, several of them being joined and twisted together. The salamander being destitute of claws, having only four toes on each of the fore-feet, and no advantage of conformation making up the deficiencies, its manner of living must, as indeed is the case, be very different from that of other lizards. It walks very slowly; far from being able to climb trees with rapidity, it often appears to drag itself with great difficulty along the surface of the earth. It seldom goes far from the place of shelter it has fixed on; it passes its life under the earth, often at the bottom of old walls during summer; it dreads the heat of the sun, which would dry it, and it is commonly only when rain is about to fall that it comes forth from its secret asylum, as if by a kind of necessity, to bathe itself, and to imbibe an element to which it is analogous. Perhaps it finds then with greatest facility those insects upon which it feeds. It lives upon flies, beetles,