

quences of its approach. The manner of progression in the jaculus, which is supposed to move the quickest of any other, is by suddenly rising upon its tail, and darting from thence to its full extent; then carrying the tail instantaneously to the head, rising, and darting again; by which means it proceeds with wonderful rapidity, without ever quitting the ground. When we consider that, in the whole tribe of serpents, the back-bone is very long and weak, and the whole body composed of unsupported muscles, and joints that are yielding, we cannot suppose them to possess the power of springing from the ground.

All serpents are amphibious, yet some are much more partial to water than others; and though destitute of fins and gills, remain at the bottom, or swim along the surface with great ease. It is in fresh-water alone, however, that they can live, as the salt is an effectual bane to the whole tribe. The greatest serpents are usually found in the water, either chusing it as their favourite element, or finding their prey in such places in greatest abundance. An experiment of Rhedi proves that they will all live and swim in liquids; that naturalist put a