

powerful than themselves, but which find their chief protection in flight, or in the doubtfulness of their form; secondly, into such as grow to an enormous size, fear no enemy, but indiscriminately attack all other animals, and devour them. Of the first kind is the common *Ringed snake*, the *Blindworm*, the *Esculapian serpent*, the *Amphisbæna*, and several others. Of the second the *Jiboya*, the *Boiguacu*, the *Depona*, and the *Boiquatrara*.

The *Ringed Snake*, or as it is sometimes called the *Black Snake*, is the largest of English serpents, sometimes exceeding four feet in length. The neck is slender, the middle of the body thick, the back and sides covered with small scales; the belly with oblong, narrow, transverse plates; the colour of the back and sides is of a dusky brown; the middle of the back marked with two rows of small black spots, running from the head to the tail; the plates on the belly are dusky; the scales on the sides are of a bluish white; the teeth are small and serrated, lying on each side of the jaw, in two rows. The whole species is perfectly inoffensive, taking shelter in dunghills, and among bushes in moist places; whence they seldom remove, unless in the midst of the day, in summer, when