

eyes are red, the head small, the neck still more slender; from that part the body encreases suddenly, and continues of an equal bulk to the tail, which ends quite blunt. The colour of the back is cinereous, marked with very small lines, composed of minute black specks. The motion of this serpent is slow; from which, and from the smallness of the eyes, are derived its names; some calling it the *slow*, and some the *blindworm*. Like all the rest of the kind, in our climates, they lie torpid during winter, and are sometimes found, in vast numbers, twisted together. This animal, like the former, is perfectly innocent; but, like the viper, it brings forth its young alive.

The *Amphisbæna*, or *Double-headed Serpent*, is remarkable for moving along with either the head or the tail foremost, whence it has been thought to have two heads; an error which the slightest inspection detects. It is of equal thickness at both ends; the colour of the skin is like that of the earth; it is rough, hard, and spotted. Some have affirmed that its bite is dangerous, but this must be a mistake, as it wants the fangs, and consequently the elaboratory that prepares the poison.