

tance from each other, with white specks in the centre; between these, near the belly, are two rows of small black spots, which run parallel to the back. It has a double row of sharp teeth in each jaw, shining like mother-of-pearl. The head is broad, and over the eyes it is raised into two prominences: near the extremity of the tail there are two claws, resembling those of birds.

These serpents lie hidden in thickets, whence they sally out unawares, and raising themselves upright on their tails, will attack both men and beasts. They make a loud hissing noise when exasperated; sometimes they wind themselves round trees, where they patiently wait for their prey; on the approach of a beast, or even a traveller, they dart down, and twist so closely round their bodies as to dispatch them in a few minutes.

To this class of large serpents we may refer the *Depona*, a native of Mexico, with a very large head, and great jaws. The mouth is armed with cutting, crooked teeth, among which there are two longer than the rest, placed in the fore part of the upper jaw, but very different from the fangs of the viper. All round the mouth there is a broad, scaly border, and the eyes are