

so large that they give it a very terrible aspect. The forehead is covered with very large scales, and on which are placed others that are smaller, curiously arranged: those on the back are of a greyish colour. Each side of the belly is marbled with large square spots, of a chesnut colour, in the middle of which is a small round yellow spot. They avoid the sight of man, and, consequently, never do much harm.

To these which we have enumerated might, possibly, be added many other tribes of serpents; and, indeed, to those naturalists who are inclined to consider every difference in marks and colour as a distinct species, their varieties must be innumerable; but that such would be a false conclusion is clearly demonstrated by the fact, that the brood of one serpent are frequently of seven or eight different colours.