

Maupertuis, is an exception of the same kind in oviparous quadrupeds.

Most animals are perpetuated by copulation; yet many birds seem only strongly to compress the females; indeed the ostrich, crane, and some few others, are so well supplied as to leave intromission no ways equivocal. Male fish approach the female in the spawning time; they seem even to rub their bellies against each other, for the male often turns upon its back to meet the belly of the female; but the necessary part for copulation does not exist in them; and the male fish approaches the female only to emit the liquor in their milts on the eggs, which the female then deposits; and it seems rather to be attracted by the eggs than the female; for when she ceases throwing out the eggs, he instantly forsakes her, and with eagerness pursues the eggs, which the stream carries away, or that the wind disperses. Male fish may be seen to pass and repass every spot where eggs are deposited several times. It is certainly not for the love he bears the female that all these motions are made, because it is not to be presumed he always knows her; often being seen to emit his liquor on all eggs that he comes near,