

in which all traces of the higher orders of animals are lost. In loose sandy strata, they occur in a high degree of perfection; in mud and clay, in a fragile state; in some instances they are silicified; and many limestones are wholly composed of their remains, cemented together by calcareous matter. Molluscous animals\* are divided into *mollusca*, properly so called, which are covered with a shell, as snails, periwinkles, &c.; and *conchifera*,† having a shell with two valves, as the oyster, scallop, &c. The former are of a higher organization than the latter, having eyes, and a distinct nervous system; the latter have neither eyes nor head, and are therefore called *acephala*.‡ Some genera of mollusca are herbivorous, living exclusively on vegetables; others are carnivorous; and many have a retractile proboscis, furnished with a rasp, by which they can perforate wood, shells, stone, and other substances. The shells of the carnivorous testacea are also generally provided with a channelled or grooved beak for the reception of the fleshy syphon by which the sea water is conveyed to the respiratory organs (Tab. 38. Fig. 3, 4, 5); while the herbivorous have the opening of the shell entire (Tab. 39, Fig. 3, 5, 6, 7). Some tribes are exclusively marine, others live only in fresh-water, while many are restricted to the brackish waters of estuaries. Their geographical distribution is alike various: certain

\* Soft-bodied animals.

† Shell-bearing animals.

‡ Having no head.