

GENERA WITH ONLY TWO LEGS.

No representatives are known *with fore legs only*; but this structural combination occurs in the allied family of the Chalcidioids. The representatives *with hind legs only*, present the following combinations:—

With *two toes*: *Scelotes*, 1 sp., Cape Good Hope.

With *one toe*: *Propeditus*, 1 sp., Cape Good Hope and New Holland.

Ophiodes, 1 sp., South America.

Hysteropus, 1 sp., New Holland.

Liulis, 1 sp., New Holland.

Dibamus, 1 sp., New Guinea.

GENERA WITHOUT ANY LEGS.

Anguis, 1 sp., Europe, Western Asia, Northern Africa.

Ophiomorus, 1 sp., Morea, Southern Russia, and Algiers.

Acontias, 1 sp., Southern Africa, Cape Good Hope.

Typhlina, 1 sp., Southern Africa, Cape Good Hope.

Who can look at this diagram, and not recognize in its arrangement the combinations of thought? This is so obvious, that while considering it one might almost overlook the fact, that while it was drawn up to classify animals preserved in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, it is in reality inscribed in Nature by these animals themselves, and is only read off when they are brought together, and compared side by side. But it contains an important element for our discussion: the series is not built up of equivalent representatives in its different terms, some combinations being richly endowed, others numbering a few, or even a single genus, and still others being altogether disregarded; such freedom indicates selection, and not the working of the law of necessity.

And if from a contemplation of this remarkable series we turn our attention to the indications relating to the geographical distribution of these so closely linked genera, inscribed after their names, we perceive at once, that they are scattered all over the globe, but not so that there could be any connection between the combinations of their structural characters and their homes. The types without legs are found in Europe, in Western Asia, in Northern Africa, and at the Cape of Good Hope; the types with hind legs only, and with one single toe, at the Cape of Good Hope, in South America, New Holland, and New Guinea; those with two toes at the Cape of Good Hope only. Among the types with four legs the origin of those with but one toe to each foot is unknown, those with one toe in the fore foot and two in the hind foot are from South Africa, those with two toes in the fore foot and one in the hind foot occur in the Philippine Islands, those with two toes to all four feet in New Holland, those with three toes to the hind feet and two to the fore feet