

281. *Laying*.—After leaving the ovary, the eggs are either discharged from the animal, that is, *laid*; or they continue their development within the parent animal, as is the case in some fishes and reptiles, as sharks and vipers, which, for that reason, have been named *ovo-viviparous* animals. The eggs of the mammalia are not only developed within the mother, but become intimately united to her; this peculiar mode of development has received the name of *gestation*.

282. Eggs are sometimes laid one by one, as in birds; sometimes collectively and in great numbers, as in the frogs, the fishes, and most of the invertebrates. The queen ant of the African termites lays 80,000 eggs in twenty-four hours; and the common hair-worm, (*Gordius*,) as many as 8,000,000 in less than one day. In some instances they are united in clusters by a gelatinous envelop; in others they are enclosed in cases or between membranous disks, forming long strings, as in the eggs of the *Pyrula* shell, (Fig. 99.) The conditions under which the eggs of different animals are placed, on being laid, are very different. The eggs of birds, and of some insects, are deposited in nests constructed for that purpose by the parent. Other animals carry their eggs attached to their bodies; sometimes under the tail, as in the lobsters and crabs, sometimes hanging in large bundles on both sides of the tail, as in the *Monoculus*, (Fig. 100, *x*.)



Fig. 99.

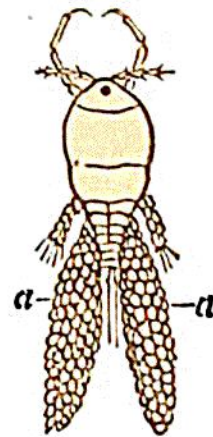


Fig. 100.

283. Some toads carry them on the back, and, what is most extraordinary, it is the male which undertakes this office. Many mollusks, the *Unio* for example, have them enclosed between the folds of the gills during incubation. In the jelly fishes and polyps, they hang in clusters, either