

scarcely thicker than a crow-quill. It is furnished with a long and powerful muscle, which arises from the sternum, and is continued into its substance, affording the means of a quick retraction, as well as lateral motion; while its elongation and other movements are effected by circular fibres, which are exterior to the former. When laid on the ground in the usual track of ants, it is soon covered with these insects, and being suddenly retracted, transfers them into the mouth; and as, from their minuteness, they require no mastication, they are swallowed undivided, and without there being any necessity for teeth.

The lips of quadrupeds are often elongated for the more ready prehension of food, as we see exemplified in the *Rhinoceros*, whose upper lip is so extensible as to be capable of performing the office of a small proboscis. The *Sorex moschatus*, or musk shrew, whose favourite food is leeches, has likewise a very moveable snout, by which it gropes for, and seizes its prey from the bottom of the mud. More frequently, however, this office of prehension is performed by the tongue, which for that purpose is very flexible and much elongated, as we see in the *Camelopard*, where it acts like a hand in grasping and bringing down the branches of a tree.*

In the animals belonging to the genus *Felis*, the papillæ in the fore part of the tongue are each armed with a horny sheath terminating in a sharp point, which is directed backwards, so as to detain the food and prevent its escape. These prickles are of great size and strength in the larger beasts of prey, as the Lion and the Tiger; they are met with also in the Opossum, and in many species of bats, more especially those belonging to the genus *Pteropus*: all these horny productions have been regarded as analogous to the lingual teeth of fishes, already noticed.

The mouth of the *Ornithorhynchus* has a form of construction intermediate between that of quadrupeds and

* Home, Lectures, &c. vi. Plate 32.