

Serpents, from the great flexibility of their spine, are capable of grasping and twining round objects of almost any shape, and of taking, as it were, their exact measure. This conformation must be exceedingly favourable to the acquisition of correct perceptions of touch. As it is these perceptions, which, as we shall afterwards find, lay the foundation of the most perfect acquaintance with the tangible properties of surrounding bodies, we may presume that this power contributes much to the sagacity possessed by these animals. It has been said of Serpents, that their whole body is a hand, conferring some of the advantages of that instrument. Hellman has shown that the slender bifurcated tongue of these animals is used for the purposes of touch.*

In those species of Lizards which are enabled by the structure of their feet to clasp the branches of trees, as the Gecko and the Chameleon, and whose tails also are prehensile, we must, for the same reason, presume that the sense of touch exists in a more considerable degree than in other saurian reptiles, which do not possess this advantage. The toes of Birds are also well calculated to perform the office of organs of touch, from the number of their articulations and their divergent position, and from the papillæ with which their skin abounds, accompanied as they are with a large supply of nerves. Those birds, which, like the Parrot, employ the feet as organs of prehension, probably enjoy a greater development of this sense. The skin which covers the bills of aquatic birds is supplied by very large nerves, and consequently possesses great sensibility. This structure enables them to find their food, which is concealed in the mud, by the exercise of the sense of touch residing in that organ. A similar structure, probably serving a similar purpose, is found in the *Ornithorhyncus*.

Among Mammalia, we find the seat of this sense frequently transferred to the lips, and extremity of the nostrils, and the fish, while lurking in ambush, as a decoy to other fishes, which they entice by their resemblance to worms.

* Quoted by Blumenbach.