

that the small shells were bruised, and the animal extracted from the large ones ; that the dye lies between the neck and what he denominates the poppy. It is found, by Cuvier, to be placed above the neck by the side of the stomach. Plumier relates that a shell-fish of this genus squirts out its fluid in a stream, whenever molested, which renders it probable that its object is defence.

Aristotle mentions the operculum of the purple, and also the proboscis, or tongue as he calls it, which he describes as longer than the finger, and protruded from under the operculum, with this it feeds, and with it can pierce shells, and will attack even those of its own kind ; this agrees with modern observations, adding that the tongue is terminated by a sucker armed with short tentacles. Aristotle also observes, an observation confirmed likewise by modern investigators, that these animals bury themselves in the sand like the pectens. This learned naturalist also states that shell-fish at certain seasons hide themselves, snails in the winter, and the purples and whelks for a month during the dog days.

The dye of the purple is mentioned in scripture as well as that of the coccus, and was used as such in the time of Moses. It is said also to be used at this time in India and America, to dye small pieces of stuff ; but in no place is it an important object.

Having given so long an account of the rock-shells or purples, I shall not have occasion to dilate upon any of the remaining genera, but shall merely notice a few peculiarities that some of them exhibit.

The Cowries are a tribe long known and admired for their beauty and polish, and one species* forms the current coin in many parts of Africa, and many Asiatic islands. Some remarkable facts distinguish their history ; from

* *Cypræa Moneta*.