

benefit, suffers it to depart uninjured.”* In another place,† he seems to speak of it as an aquatic bird, yet afterwards he describes it as frequenting shrubberies and subterranean places.‡ Whether this animal really attends thus upon the crocodile has not been ascertained, but it would be singular that such a tradition should have maintained its ground so long without any foundation.

As a further proof that the *Bdella* of the father of history is a true *leech*, and not a mosquito,—as M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire, from the meaning of its primitive,§ would interpret the word,—it may be observed that Aristotle compares the *Bdella* to an earth-worm,|| and describes its peculiar motion; and in Hesychius it is said to be a kind of *Scolex* or worm; Theocritus also alludes to its blood-sucking propensities.¶

That leeches infest the aquatic Saurians is further evident from a letter received by Mr. R. Taylor, and very kindly communicated by him to me, from a friend at Calcutta, Mr. W. C. Hurry, who, having observed that the fauces of the gigantic crane** were generally very full of leeches, determined to examine the crocodile; and upon a large alligator he found a small red species, of which he sent specimens. A friend of mine, Mr. Martin, of Islington, observed also that the alligators of Pulo Penang were infested, as he thought, by an animal of this kind, called by the natives its louse.

The *Trochilus* of Aristotle, Mr. Stanley states to Mr. Taylor, is the Egyptian Plover;†† who further observes that the Green Tody‡‡ is also related to cleanse the mouths of

* Hist. An. l. ix. c. 6.

† Ibid. l. viii. c. 3.

‡ Ibid. l. ix. c. 11.

§ Them. Βδελλω, to suck.

|| De incessu animal. c. 9.

¶ Idyll. ii. line 55, he calls it Λιμνατις Βδελλα.

** *Ciconia Argala* ?

†† *Charadrius Ægyptius*.

‡‡ *Todus viridis*.