

Crustaceans, and some even roll themselves up like one tribe of them.*

These animals have their haunts sometimes in deep burrows and passages under the sea-weed or in the sea-sand. They are so fierce in their habits that some have been styled the tigers of the worms. Some fishes in their turn make them their prey. Many of them, as the sea-mouse,† are remarkable for the brilliancy of their metallic hues. Perhaps these dazzling splendours, as in the case of some insects,‡ may be of use to them in preventing the escape of their prey. Their forms and instruments of locomotion seem particularly adapted to the situation and circumstances in which they are placed; their legs, which approach the jointed legs of crustaceans and insects, fit them for moving on the surface of the bed of the sea, their oars for swimming in the water, and the long form of many for threading the sinuous paths and burrows in which they have their habitation and place of refuge. So exactly are they fitted, by the skilful hand of the almighty and benevolent Architect of all animal forms, to live and move in the place he has assigned to them.

* Nereis Armadillo.

† Aphrodita aculeata.

‡ Introd. to Ent. ii. 221.