

Of this description is the tribe of *Lerneans*, above alluded to as intermediate between the Branchiopod and Pœcilopod Entomostracans; of which I cannot select a more interesting species to exemplify the adaptation of the structure to the instinct and functions, than one described and figured by Dr Normann, under the appropriate name of *Actheres Percarum*,* or *Pest of the Perch*.

This animal, like the Branchiopods, is found in fresh water, where it attaches itself to the common and another species of the perch genus,† and takes its station usually within the mouth, fixing itself, by means of its sucker, in the cellular membrane, so deeply that it cannot disengage itself, or be extracted by external force, without rupturing the so-called arms that are attached to the sucker, and leaving it behind. The animal often fixes itself to the palate, and even to the tongue. The arms (*fig. 69*) take their rise at the base of the cephalothorax—as the part consisting of head and thorax, not separated by a suture, is called—where they are very robust and thick, but they taper towards the other extremity, a single sucker (*fig. 69*), common to both, being, as it were, hooked to them. These arms are bent nearly into a circle, surrounding the cephalothorax, and the sucker is in front of the head: their substance is cartilaginous, and they repose in the same plane with the head; whence we may conjecture that the animal, when fixed and engaged in suction, lies close to the part where it has taken its station. When we consider that these predaceous fishes often gorge their prey, swallowing it entire, we see how necessary it was that our parasite should be thus fitted to fix itself firmly, and root itself, as it were, that it may be enabled to withstand the pressure and violent action of the bodies that pass over it, for the palate and tongue of a *perch* must be a perilous

* *Αχθηρης*, annoying.

† *Perca fluviatilis* and *P. lucioperca*.