

easily discoverable. The under side of the shield, or anterior portion of the crust, is deeply hollowed for the reception of the body, and the cavity is marked out anteriorly by an emarginate ridge, which gives it something the appearance of the hooded serpent. Some of them attain to a large size, the species found near the Molucca Islands being sometimes two feet in length.

The head in them, as in the Arachnidans, seems suppressed, or to merge in the thorax, which also, as in that class, bears the eyes, the outer pair corresponding with those of certain Crustaceans in which they are sessile, and the inner pair being like those of the Arachnidans, but they have neither the oral organs nor the legs of the class just named. In fact, these animals seem to stand in much the same position amongst the Entomostracans, that the Cephalopods do amongst the Molluscans, and moreover as giants amongst pigmies. Time will probably throw more light upon those singular works of the Creator.

Their most remarkable organ is their *tail*, which is probably of considerable service to them in their locomotions. It is shaped like a stiletto, and is so extremely sharp at the extremity, that it will easily pierce the flesh, and may perhaps be used by the animal as a weapon, as it is said to be by the Indians; it is so articulated with the posterior piece of the crust as to move with more ease upwards and downwards than laterally. Comparing the small body with the vast volume and levity of the crust which covers and protects it, and considering that the animal, as M. Latreille has remarked, passes the night with its anterior half out of the water, we may conjecture that, by the depression of the tail, it may be elevated in part above the water, and remain stationary. By a slight inclination on either side it probably also helps to steer it, and as it is ciliated at the base, like the natatory legs of a