

from them. They are very fond of the fruit of the cocoa-palm, and may be fed with it for months without suffering from want of water. Whether like the land-crab, they have a reservoir capable of containing a sufficient quantity of that fluid to keep the gills moist, has not been ascertained: probably they have.

Amongst the larger species of the long-tailed Section, there is one of a most ferocious aspect, having its head, the base of its long antennæ, and its thorax, beset with sharp spines. This is called in the London market the *Thorny lobster*,\* and is stated sometimes to be nearly a yard in length; it is also called the *Cray-fish*, and by the French who highly esteem it, the *Langouste*: it is, however, far inferior to the common lobster, from which it is distinguished by having no pincers, its legs terminating in a strong simple claw, set with bunches of bristles, a circumstance indicating a different mode of taking its prey. From the amplitude of their fan-like tail, and from their natatory plates, these lobsters seem formed for rapid motion in the water.

The next species that I shall mention is of much more importance to us, and has been celebrated by epicures from ancient times. Instead of unarmed hands and legs, the *Lobster*,† as every one knows, has the *former* armed, often with an enormous pair of claws, which must be of vast power, and besides, the two anterior pairs of their *legs* are furnished with small pincers. It is observable that the moveable finger of the claw of the hands is on their inner side, while, in these two pairs of legs, that on the outside is moveable. Aristotle's *Carabus*‡ is generally referred to the thorny lobster; but in one place he expressly mentions its using its pincers to catch and carry its food to its mouth, which could not apply to that animal, though it agrees well with the

\* *Palinurus vulgaris*, Leach. Malacostr. Podophth. t. xxx.

† *Astacus Gammarus*. ‡ Gr. *καρᾶβος*, Hist. Anim. l. viii. c. 2.