

As the anguiform *Chilognathans* represent the living and moving serpent, so the family I am now considering, the equipede *Chilopodans*, may be regarded as representing the skeleton of a dead one. The head, with its poison-fangs, the depressed body, formed of segments representing vertebral joints, and the legs curving inwards, and resembling ribs, all concur to excite the above idea in the mind of the beholder.

Like the last family, these also frequent close places, and sometimes creep into beds; they devour insects, and similar small animals, which Latreille found the puncture of their envenomed fangs arrested, and killed instantaneously; and it is sometimes attended with serious inconveniences to man himself. One species,* in some parts of the West Indies, goes by the name of the *Mischievous*;† and the pain caused by the bite of the Giant Centipede, though it is never mortal, is greater than that produced by the sting of the scorpion.

Some centipedes emit a phosphoric light; of this description is one distinguished by the name of the *phosphoric*,‡ which is stated by Linné to have fallen from the air upon Captain Ekeberg's vessel in the Indian Ocean, a hundred miles from land. But the light-giving centipede best known is the *electric*,§ which is remarkable for emitting a vivid phosphoric light in the dark; this is produced by a viscid secretion, which, as I have observed, when adhering to the fingers, gives light independently of the animal. This species also frequents beds. Its object in this may, perhaps, be to search for bugs and other insects that annoy our species during repose.

The function which the Creator has devolved upon the Myriapods of the first Order, seems to be that of removing *putrescent* vegetable and animal matters from the spots that they pollute; and that of the second to keep within due limits the minor inhabitants, especially the insect, of the

* *Scolopendra morsitans*.

† *Malfaisante*.

‡ *S. phosphorea*.

§ *Geophilus electricus*.