

this opinion, with respect to the oral organs, by considering the mandibles of the spider as analogous to the poison-fang which arms the second pair of auxiliary feet of the *Scolopendra*.

I feel, however, rather inclined to adopt the opinion of the former learned entomologist, from the consideration of an *Arachnidan*, which seems evidently to lead towards the Hexapods. The animal I allude to is one of ancient fame, of which, once for all, I shall here give the history.

Ælian relates that a certain district of Æthiopia was deserted by its inhabitants in consequence of the appearance of incredible numbers of scorpions, and of those *Phalangians* which are denominated *Tetragnatha*, or having four jaws: an event mentioned also by Diodorus Siculus and Strabo.\* Pliny likewise alludes to this event, but calls the last animal *Solpuga*,† a name which, in another place,‡ he says was used by Cicero to designate a venomous kind of *ant*.

The epithet *Tetragnatha*, applied by Ælian, &c., to the animal which, in conjunction with the scorpion, expelled the Æthiopians, as just stated, from the district they inhabited, seems clearly to point to the *Solpuga* of Fabricius; for any person, not skilled in natural science, would, when he saw the expanded forceps of their mandibles, pronounce that they had *four* jaws;§ and the animals of this genus, in their general form and aspect, exhibit no small resemblance to an *ant*, so that it is not wonderful that Pliny should regard them as a kind of venomous ant. It seems, therefore, almost certain that the ancient and

\* Bochart. Hierozoic. ii. l. iv. c. 13.

† Hist. Nat. l. viii. c. 29. This name seems derived from the Greek, *Heliocentris*.

‡ L. xxix. c. 4.

§ L. Dufour. Annal. Génér. des Sc. Nat. iv. t. lxiv. f. 7, a.