

modern Solpuga are synonymous. Pliny, indeed, mentions a certain kind of spider—one of which he describes as weaving very ample webs—under the name *Tetragnathii*; but these appear to have no connexion with the *Phalangia tetragnatha* of Ælian, &c.

Olivier was the first modern naturalist who described the animals now before us, to which he gave the generic appellation of *Galeodes*; but if, as the above circumstances render very probable, they are really synonymous with the ancient *Solpuga*, that name, revived by Fabricius, should be retained.

Whether these animals are really as venomous and maleficent as they were said to be of old, and as their terrific aspect may be thought to announce, seems very doubtful. We learn from Olivier that the Arabs still regard their bite as mortal, and that the same opinion obtains in Persia and Egypt; and Pallas relates several facts, which, he says, he witnessed himself, which appear to prove that, unless timely remedies are applied, they instill a deadly venom into those they bite. Oil is stated to be the best application. On the other hand, Olivier, who found these Arachnidans common in Persia, Mesopotamia, and Arabia, affirms that every night they ran over him, when in bed, with great velocity, without ever stopping to annoy him; no one was bitten by them, nor could he collect a single well-attested fact to prove that their bite was dangerous: to judge by the strong pincers with which the mouth is armed, he thought it might be painful, but he doubts whether it is accompanied by any infusion of venom. The mandibles have clearly no fang with a poison-pore, like those of the spiders.

To return from this digression. I principally mentioned this tribe of animals, because, as was long ago observed