

in Ehrenberg's first Family of his polygastric Class, the oral aperture is *fringed* with a circlet of bristles, but whether the animal by their means creates a vortex in the water, or whether they are analogous to the tentacles of the polypes, and are employed in collecting its food, seems not to have been clearly ascertained. Lower down in this Class, and approaching the Rotatories, we find a singular animal,* with bristles, by their position, simulating legs, which, as was before observed,† revolve with wonderful rapidity. But it is in the Class of *Rotatories* that these revolving organs are most conspicuous. They are described as shaped like a tunnel, the tube of which terminates in a deep-seated pharynx armed with jaws, and the external dilated orifice fringed with fine hairs or bristles, to which the animal communicates a very rapid rotation, whence they are called *wheel-animals*. Some, as the vorticels,‡ the wheel-animals by way of eminence, appear to have *two* wheels, others *three*, or even *four*: Lamarck is of opinion, from the observations of Du Trochet, that what are taken for two or more wheels, are only one, bent so as to form partial ones;§ but in some they are certainly distinct organs.|| The object of the rapid gyration of this wheel or wheels, is to create a vortex in the water, whose centre is the mouth of the animal, a little charybdis bearing with it all the animalcules or molecules that come within its sphere of action, and by this remarkable mechanism it is enabled by its Creator, as long as it is encircled by a fluid

* Discocephalus Rotator, Fig. 94.

† Vol. i. Appendix, p. 321.

‡ Vorticella. Müll. They constitute chiefly the Rotifera of Lamarck, and are divided by Ehrenberg into numerous genera. His genus Vorticella, the type of which is *V. convallaria*, Müll. is placed in his Polygastric Class, in a section of his fourth Family (Anopisthia), which section he names Vorticellina.

§ See Baker On the Microscope, i. 91. t. viii. f. 5.

|| Ibid. f. 6.