

other in that of reptiles, namely the lump-fishes,* the sucking-fishes,† and the Gecko lizards.‡ Under the name of *lump-fishes* I include all those whose ventral fins unite to form a disk or sucker by which they are enabled to adhere to the rocks, constituting Cuvier's family of *Discoboles*. But the most celebrated of this tribe, in ancient as well as modern times, are the sucking-fishes or *Echeneis*, which Pliny says were so called from their impeding the course of the vessels to which they adhered. On the back of their head they have an oval cotyloid disk, fitted with numerous transverse laminæ denticulated at their posterior edge, forming a double series; by the aid of this apparatus, which appears to adhere by means of the teeth of its laminæ as well as by suction, this animal attaches itself to the whale, the dolphin, the shark, the turtle, and other inhabitants of the waters, and even to vessels that are sailing; and thus organs, which at first sight appear to stop all locomotion in the animal, are the means which enable it, like certain barnacles,§ to traverse half the globe. The fins of this animal do not permit it to swim with ease and velocity; and therefore this must be regarded as a compensating contrivance, by which it can the more readily fulfil its functions and instincts. Though they are disengaged with difficulty by human force from the vessel to which they are fixed, they very easily detach themselves, and swimming on their back, pursue any object that attracts their attention or excites their cupidity.

It is singular to remark that in the case of two such animals, as the barnacle amongst the *Cirripedes*, which has naturally no locomotive powers and organs; and the Eche-

* *Cyclopterus Lumpus*, &c.

† *Echeneis*.

‡ Gecko. Daud. Stellio. Schn. Ascalabotes. Cuv.

§ See above, p. 3.