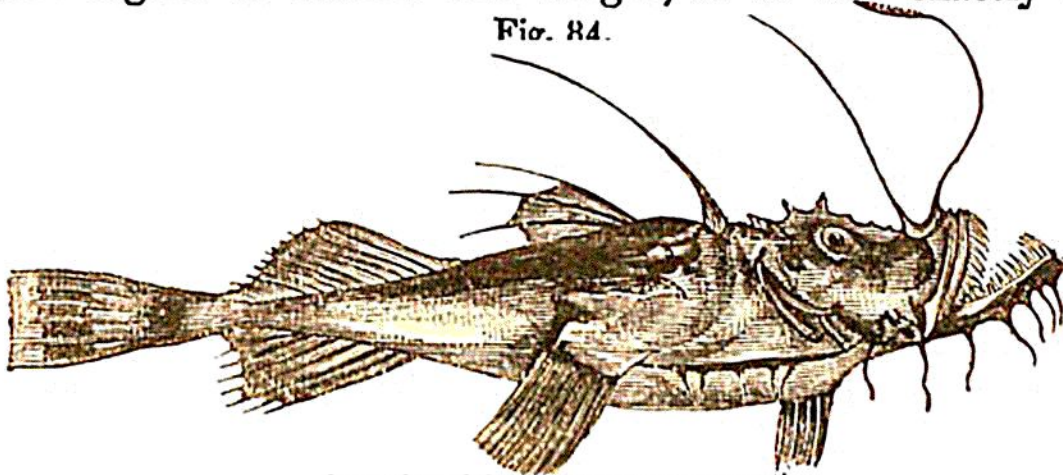


on the earth by means of its fins, like small quadrupeds, and that their pectorals discharge the function of hind-legs;\* so that there seems some ground for thinking that they are a branch diverging from the Selacians towards the Reptiles.

Fins, and their analogues, were given to aquatic animals, it should seem, solely for locomotion; and could we witness the motions of their different tribes, each in its place, and observe the play of these appendages, we should find them all so located in the body of the fish, and so nicely measured with regard to volume and weight, as to suit exactly the

FIG. 84.



A species of fishing-frog from China.

wants of the animal in its station, and to act as a mutual counterpoise, so that it should not be overswayed by the preponderance of one organ over another; every thing proving that the momentum and action of each, both independently, and in concert with the rest, had been nicely calculated before its creation, by one whose Wisdom knew no bounds, whose Will was the well being and well doing of his creatures, each in its place, and whose Power enabled him to give being to what his Wisdom planned, and his Will decreed.

Nothing is more graceful and elegant than the motions of fishes in their own pure element. Not to mention the shifting radiance of their forms, as they glance in the sun-

\* Règne Anim. ii. 251. Last Ed.