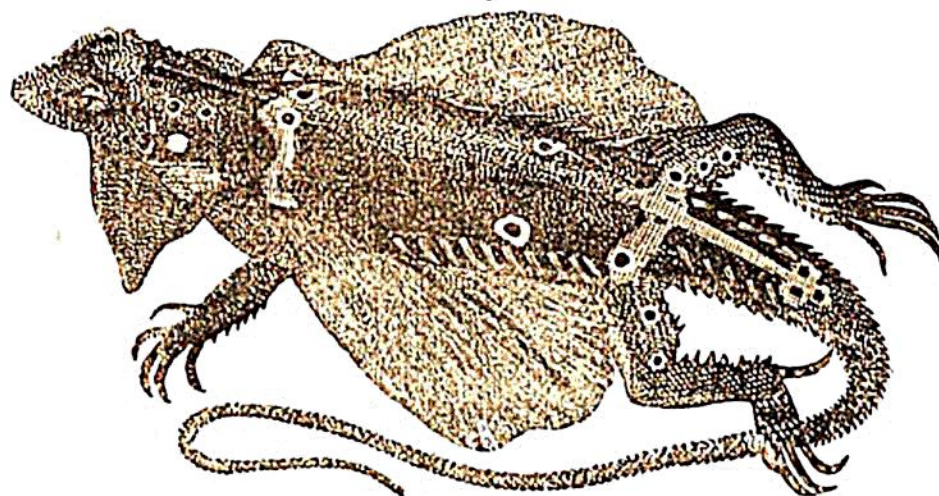


The dreaded name of *dragon*, attached to the monsters of fable, has excited in our imagination ideas of beings clothed with unwonted terrors, from our earliest years, so that when we find the only animal that inherits their name is an insignificant *lizard*, not more than eight inches long, we are tempted to exclaim, *Parturiunt montes*. This little animal, under the name of wings, is furnished with two dorsal appendages independent of the legs, formed of the skin, and actually supported by the six first short ribs, which, instead of taking their usual curvature, are extended in a right line.

Fig. 85.



Draco Fembriatus.

These organs are not used to fly with, but to support the animal in its leaps from branch to branch, and from tree to tree.

We see in this instance, how exactly the means are adapted to the end proposed. This animal walks with difficulty, and consequently seldom descends from the trees. It is therefore enabled to move from one part of a tree to another, not by its legs, but by an organ formed out of its *ribs*! How various and singular, in this instance, as well as in that of serpents before alluded to,* are the means adopted by a Being, who is never at a loss to answer the foreseen call of circumstances by wise expedients.

* See above, p. 97.