

approaching to the Ophidians or serpents, the legs are very short,\* and sometimes reduced to a single pair;† even in some serpents rudiments of a pair of legs have been discovered, particularly in the *Boa*.‡

Some *insects* are remarkable for the vast length of their anterior pair of legs; what may be the object of this formation has not been discovered, except that, in one instance,§ it is found only in one sex. The animal I allude to belongs to the tribe of Capricorn beetles,|| and seems not to be uncommon in Brazil. The fore-legs of the male are more than twice the length of the body, while those of the female, though longer than the others, are scarcely half so long.

Many insects are formed, in some degree, after the pattern of the kangaroo and the jerboa, in order to enable them to transport themselves by leaping beyond the reach of their enemies. The thighs of their hind-legs are incrassated so as to afford a box capable of containing muscles sufficiently powerful, by their action, to send them through the air to an almost incredible distance. If we examine the structure of the posterior legs of any common *grasshopper*, we immediately see, both from the position of the joints with respect to each other, and the shape and volume of the elongated thigh, that they are made for leaping. The shank, when the animal prepares to leap, forms an acute angle with the thigh, so that, being suddenly unbent, it springs forward, often to the distance of two hundred times its own length. Many carriages are set upon springs made to imitate the position of this insect preparing to leap, which are known by the name of grasshopper springs.¶

Several *beetles* rival the grasshoppers in their leaps, and

\* E. G. in Seps.

† As in Bipes.

‡ Zool. Journ. iii. 253.

§ *Acrocinus longimanus*.

|| *Cerambyx*. L.

¶ See Introduction to Entomology, ii. 310.