

of the Order, and precede the Pachyderms. In many points they seem connected with the birds; one genus* having a mouth resembling the bill of a duck, and being almost web-footed; it has also been stated to be oviparous;† the male, as I before observed,‡ is armed with a sting, like a serpent. The other genus, *Echidna*, approaches nearer the pangolins,§ and ant-eaters,|| having, like them, an extensile viscid tongue, by means of which they entrap and devour the ants. The other animals of the Order are remarkable for their great nails, almost approaching to hoofs; in the Family which precedes the Monotremes¶ they are often used for burrowing.

Next above the *Echidna* is a singular animal, wearing the outward aspect and scales of a Saurian, the pangolin, which rolls itself up like an armadillo, and is the ant-eater of the old world. It is singular that a real lizard, the chameleon, should have the same instinct of catching its insect prey by means of a long tongue besmeared with slime. In the new world the pangolin is replaced by the ant-eaters, which have the same habits, and the same mode of procuring their food. With the long nails of their fore-feet they penetrate the nests of the white ants and common ants, and inserting their long tongue, besmeared with a viscid saliva, into these nests, retract it covered with game; and this with such velocity, that the eye can scarcely follow them. Their nails, which require to be kept sharp, for the operation just mentioned, when not employed, are folded inwards, so as to prevent their being blunted. In one species** in the fore-foot there are only two nails.

Amongst the animals that are clothed in armour, in this

* Ornithorhynchus.

† See above, p. 62.

|| Myrmecophaga.

** *M. didactylas*.

† Cuv. Règne Anim. i. 234, note 2.

§ Manis.

¶ Edentés ordinaires. Cuv.