

door down, in any case of emergency, against external force, by the insertion of her claws into some of them.

The principal instruments by which this little animal performs her various operations, are her mandibles or cheliceres, and her spinners. The former, besides the two rows of tubercles, between which, when unemployed, her claw, or sting, is folded, has, at the apex, on their inner side, a number of strong spines.\* As no one has ever seen her at work upon her habitation, it cannot be known exactly how these organs, and probably her anterior legs, are employed in her various manipulations.

I have, in my collection, a tube or nest of the Jamaica trap-door spider,† consisting merely of the web, which is much larger than that just described, being more than six inches long, and three quarters of an inch in diameter in the narrowest part, but near the mouth more than an inch. In this species the trap-door is semi-circular, having a sloping margin; it is lined, as well as the upper part of the tube, with a strong close web, resembling parchment. I can detect in it no series of orifices, but I see here and there little holes where the claws appear to have been inserted. This door is entirely formed of layers of web, without any intermixture of earth.

Mr. Bennett, in his *Wanderings, &c.*,‡ gives some interesting particulars of the species discovered by him in New South Wales. He describes the tube as about an inch in diameter at the mouth, and the lid as formed of web incorporated with earth, and exactly fitting the mouth of the tube, in this resembling the *pioneer*. He heard of a person who used to amuse himself with feeding one of these

\* Observations sur le nid d'une Araignée lu à l'Acad. des Sc. le 21 Juin, 1830, par M. Victor Audoin; and Ann. de la Soc. Ent. de France, ii. 69.

† Fig. 89.

‡ i. 328.