

The Class may be thus characterized:—

BODY without any insection or impression marking out its parts, consisting of a single segment, and without folds. *Mouth* and organs various. *Eyes*, 2. *Legs*, 6—8, short.

Latreille has divided this Class, including in it the preceding one, into *seven* families; but perhaps it would be better to consider it as divided into *two* Orders, Fig. 94.

*mites*\* and *ticks*;† or those that do not *suck* their food, and those that are fitted with an organ adapted to suction.



Discocephalus  
Rotator.

I shall select an instance or two from animals of this Class, which show the care of the Creator for these little beings, apparently so low in the scale of Creation; his foresight of every circumstance in which they would be placed; and his adaptation of their structure to their assigned station.

This is particularly conspicuous in the case of a species of bat-mite,‡ which was first noticed by one of our most celebrated microscopical observers, Mr. Baker, and has since fallen under the notice of M. V. Audoin, well known for his acute investigation of the external parts of insects, who kindly sent me a memoir of his on this and other Acaridans, extracted from the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* for the year 1832. If we consider the animal that this mite inhabits, the bat, and that it affords much less shelter than the birds, to any parasite that may be attached to it, especially as the species that I am speaking of is stated usually to fix itself to the membrane of the wings, which being a naked membrane, would seem to expose it to be easily shaken off when the animal is flying: we easily comprehend that it stands in need of some particular provision to counteract this circumstance.

Like those of many other mites, its feet are furnished

\* Acari.

† Ricini.

‡ Pteroptes.