

ceous in their habits, and devour, without pity, any small animal they can seize and overpower. Of this description is the whole tribe of *ground-beetles*, called by old writers *clocks* and *dors*, considered by Linné as forming one genus,* but now divided into more than a hundred.

One of the most remarkable of this tribe is the *spectre-beetle*,† described by Hagenback, which is found both in Java and China. In its general aspect, though evidently belonging to the *Carabidans*, it seems to represent the *praying-insects*, and the *spectres*:‡ and, from its great flatness, it probably insinuates itself into close places, either for concealment or to lie in wait for its prey.

The splendid tribe of *tiger-beetles*,§ as they indicate by their fearful jaws, have the same habits, adding a swift flight to the rapid motions on foot which distinguish the other. The grubs of these emulate spiders, in some respects, lying in wait for their prey in burrows, in which they curiously suspend themselves.|| In the waters a considerable tribe of beetles pursue various aquatic insects, and by means of their oary hind legs swim very swiftly, often suspending themselves at the surface by their anal extremity, near which are two large spiracles for respiration, for they do not respire the water like fishes and the grubs of *Dragon-flies*. Their larves are armed with tremendous sickle-shaped jaws, through which they pump the juices from fishes as well as insects.

Besides those that are indiscriminate devourers, others confine themselves to particular tribes or species. Thus one of the most splendid of the so-called *ground-beetles*, named the *sycophant*,¶ ascends the trees and shrubs after the caterpillars, which are its destined food; and probably

* *Carabus*.

† *Phasma*.

|| *Introd. to Ent. iii. 152.*

† *Mormolyce. Fig. 101.*

§ *Cicindela, Manticora.*

¶ *Calosoma Sycophanta.*