

being principally flies, and other insects, especially those that frequent aquatic plants and places. These, as Sir C. Bell relates,* it, as it were, *shoots* with a drop of water.

In a former part of this treatise I have given an account of those American fishes, which, when the water fails them in the streams they inhabit, by means of a moveable organ representing the first ray of their pectoral fin,† are enabled to travel overland in search of one whose waters are not evaporated. An analogous fact has been observed in China, by a friend and connection of mine,‡ who paid particular attention to every branch of zoology when in the East. At Canton, he informed me, there is a fish that crosses the paddy fields from one creek to another, often a quarter of a mile asunder. The Chinese told him that this was done by means of a kind of *leg*.

I shall close this history of Fishes with some account of the tribe to which the *fishing-frog*§ belongs. I have before alluded to their connection with the Reptiles;|| in some points also they look to the rays and the sharks. The attenuated tail of all,¶ and the enormous swallow of others,** give them this resemblance, especially to the first, so that the French call them *fishing-rays*.†† The best known of them is that called, by way of eminence, the *fishing-frog*. This is a large fish, sometimes seven feet long; it is found in all the European seas, and is often called the sea-devil. "This fish," says Lacedepede, "having neither defensive arms in its integuments, nor force in its limbs, nor celerity in swimming, is, in spite of its bulk, constrained to have recourse to stratagem to procure its subsistence, and to confine its chase to ambuscades, for which its conformation

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|| See above, p. 285.

** Fig. 103.

† Fig. 2.

§ *Lophius Piscator*.

¶ Fig. 83, 102.

†† Raie pêcheresse.