

make which justifies your disinclination to regard the *Reptilia* of Cuvier as including two distinct Classes. Not any of the *Batrachia* have a *single* auricle; for though the venous division of the heart has a simple exterior, it is in reality divided internally into two separate auricles, receiving respectively—the one, the carbonized blood of the general system; the other and smaller, the aërated, or vital, blood from the lungs. This I have found to be the case successively in the frog and toad, the salamander, and newt, and lastly, in the lowest of the true Amphibia, the *Siren lacertina*, which in its persistent external branchiæ comes nearest, I apprehend, to the Fishes.”

By this statement it appears that those characters, which have been deemed sufficient to warrant the division of the Reptiles into two distinct Classes, exist only in appearance. I shall consider them therefore as forming only *one*, of which the following seem to constitute the principal diagnostics.

REPTILIA. (*Reptiles.*)

Animal, vertebrated, oviparous, or ovoviviparous. *Eggs*, hatched without incubation.

Heart, really biauriculate, though in some the auricles are not *externally* divided. *Blood*, red, partially oxygenated, cold.

Brain, very small; *vitality*, in some degree, independent of it.

Integument, various.

As the two Orders into which the Batrachians of Cuvier are divided by Dr. Grant, differ from the rest of the Class not only in their respiratory organs, but also in other important particulars, indicating that they form a group of greater value than the other three Cuvierian Orders,