

thirty miles distant, and he supposes that those found in both places might be thrown up by the same subterranean lake.‡ In the year 1833 there were two living specimens in the museum of the Zoological Society, where I had the pleasure of seeing them; and from one of them the accurate figure here given (*fig. 107*), by the kind permission of the Society, was taken by Mr. C. M. Curtis.

Fig. 107.



Proteus An-  
guinus. a. a.  
the Gills.

When we look at these animals, there is something so different in their general aspect from the tribes to which they are most nearly related, that the idea strikes one that we are viewing beings far removed from those that inhabit the surface of our globe and its waters; which, though accidentally visiting these upper regions, may be the outsetters of a population still further removed from our notice, and dipping deeper into its interior.

The *Proteus* is about a foot in length, or something more, and about an inch in thickness; the body is cylindrical, tapering to the tail; its colour is a pale red; its skin is transparent and slimy, so as easily to elude the grasp. It has four short slender legs; the anterior pair, placed just behind the head, having *three*; and the posterior pair, which are shorter, and placed just before the vent, having only *two* toes without claws. The head terminates in a flat, very obtuse muzzle, somewhat resembling the beak of a duck; its maxillæ are armed with teeth; the eyes are extremely minute, and scarcely discernible; they are concealed, and apparently rendered useless by an opaque skin; but as this animal is said to avoid

\* Consolat. in Trav. 183—188.