

But the most celebrated of the Saurians, from the earliest ages, is the *Crocodile*: its history, however, is so well known, that I shall only mention a few circumstances, of less notoriety, connected with it. There has been some difference of opinion as to whether the crocodile can move the upper or lower jaw. Aristotle observes, all animals move the lower jaw, except the crocodile of the river, for this animal only moves the upper.\* Denon says the same.† Lacedede, on the contrary, affirms that the lower jaw is the only moveable one.‡ I was assured by Mr. Cross, when looking at two alligators in his menagerie, then at Charing Cross, that they moved both their jaws; and my friend Mr. Martin has observed the same thing in India. M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire and Baron Cuvier nearly reconcile the two opinions. The *head*, says the former, moves on the lower jaw, like the lid of a snuff-box, that opens by a hinge. By this mechanism they can elevate their nostrils above the water, which they do with great rapidity for concealment:§ and the latter observes, that the upper jaw moves only with the whole head.|| So that the fact seems to be that the lower jaw alone has motion independent of the head, and the upper one can only move with it: but when we consider that the lower one extends beyond the skull, a condyle of which acts in an acetabulum of that jaw, we can easily comprehend that the upper jaw and head, forming one piece, may be elevated at any angle, according to the will of the animal; and thus the upper one acquires additional power of action in attacking its prey in the water and securing it.

The nostrils of this animal are at the end of the muzzle; and this structure enables it, by causing the upper jaw to emerge a little, which, as the crocodile cannot remain under

\* Hist. An. lib. i. c. 11.

† Voyage, &c. i. 185.

‡ Hist. Ov. 194.

§ An. du Mus. x. 376.

|| Règn. An. ii. 18.