

rise upon their hind-legs ; at other times they creep and lengthen their bodies like a serpent. It often sits upon its hind-legs, and more often darts like an arrow upon its prey ; its eyes are lively and full of fire ; its physiognomy is beautiful, its body very agile, legs short, tail thick and very long, and its hair rough, and sometimes curled. Both male and female have a remarkable orifice, independent of the natural passages ; a kind of pouch, in which an odoriferous liquor is secreted ; and some have asserted that the ichneumon opens this pouch to refresh itself when too hot. Its nose is very sharp, and its mouth narrow, which prevents it from seizing any thing very large ; but these wants are amply supplied by agility and courage. It very easily strangles a cat, though bigger and stronger than itself ; it often fights with dogs, and however large commonly gets the better of them.

Their growth is very quick, and their lives but of short duration : they are very common throughout all the southern parts of Asia, from *Egypt* to *Java* ; and are even to be met with in Africa, as far as the *Cape of Good Hope* ; but they will not live and produce in our temperate climates ; they are distressed by wind, and the frost destroys them ; to avoid the one,
and