

Aristotle.

σαῖοι ἔχουσιν ἐχίνοι καὶ οἱ ὕστρι-
χες· τριχὸς γὰρ χρεῖαν παρέχουσιν,
ἀλλ' οὐ ποδῶν, ὥσπερ οἱ τῶν θα-
λαττίων. p. 10.

Cuvier, tom. I.

piquans au lieu de poils. p.
132 et 208.

THE MOLE.

All viviparous animals have eyes, except the mole; and even this animal, although it has neither the faculty of sight, nor eyes readily visible, cannot be said to be altogether without eyes; for if its skin be taken off, you may distinguish not only the natural situation of the eyes, but that black central part of the eye itself in which the pupil is contained; as if these organs had been imperfectly developed, and the skin had grown over them. If the skin, which is thick, be stripped off from the head, you may perceive on its inner surface, and in the usual region, distinct eyes; which, though small and shrunk, as it were, have all the essential parts of those organs, namely, a pupil placed in the centre of the black part of the eye, and that black part surrounded by the white ^e.

Ζωοτόκα πάντα (ἔχει ὀφθαλμοὺς)
πλὴν ἀσπάλακος. τοῦτον δὲ τρόπον

The eye of the mole is so small, and so concealed by the skin, that for a long time this animal was supposed to be without eyes. The blind rat-mole has no visible trace of external eyes; but in taking off the skin, a very small black point is observable, which appears to have the organization of an eye, without the possibility of being employed as such, because the skin passes over it not only in an entire state, but as thick and as closely covered with hair as in any other part of the face. This may probably be the animal which, according to M. Olivier, gave the idea to the ancients of describing the mole as totally blind^f.

Son œil est si petit, et tellement caché par le poil, qu'on

^e Κυκλώπιον (p. 101.) is evidently synonymous with λευκόν. (p. 12.)

^f By an examination of Aristotle's description it is evident that the ancients knew the true state of the case, namely, that the mole has eyes.