

creeps very gently towards it, with short steps, till it comes within a proper distance, and then it springs suddenly like a tiger. It will jump two feet to seize upon a bee.*

We have a more curious instance of the precision of the eye and of the adaptation of muscular action, in the *chætodon rostratus*.† This fish inhabits the Indian rivers, and lives on



the smaller aquatic flies. When it observes one alighted on a twig, or flying near (for it can shoot them on the wing) it darts a drop of water with so steady an aim as to bring the fly down into the water, when it falls an easy prey. These fishes are kept in large vases for amusement, and if a fly be presented on the end of a twig, they will shoot at it with surprising accuracy. In its natural state it will hit a fly at the distance of from three to six feet. The *zeus insidiator*‡ has also the power of forming its mouth into a tube and squirting at flies so as to en-

* Kirby.

† *Chætodon*, a genus of the Acanthopterygii.

‡ Belonging to another genus of the same Order.