

The skin on the surface of the earth-worm is furnished, at the parts where it covers the rings, with very minute bristles, called *Setæ*, by means of which the animal is enabled to fix those parts on the ground, while the other portions of its body are in motion. Both in the anterior and posterior segments, these hairs are directed towards the centre of the animal; while those on the middle segments are perpendicular.* We almost constantly find, in animals belonging to the order of *Annelida*, some provision of this kind. Often consisting of tufts of hair regularly disposed in rows on each side of the under surface. In the *Nereis* (Fig. 129,) a genus of sea-worms, there are often above a hundred pair of little tufts of strong bristles: and between these we find tentacula to prevent the animal from running against any thing by which it might be injured. They also raise the body from the ground, for which purpose, as they are used under water, very little support is necessary.† Sometimes the whole body is covered with hair; at other times these appendages are in the form of hooks, which, of course, give greater power of clinging to the objects, on which they fasten. In some, again, they assume more the nature of feet, of which they exercise during progression all the functions; being furnished with several sets of muscles for adjusting and strengthening their actions.

The mode by which an animal of this description advances along the ground is very simple. It first protrudes the head by the elongation of the foremost segments of the body, while the others cling to the earth by means of the rings, and also of the bristles and other appendages to the integuments. The head is then applied to the ground, and made the fixed point, and the segments next to it, which had been elongated, are now contracted by the action of their longitudinal muscles; in doing which, equal portions of the suc-

* As an instance of the extraordinary multiplicity of species existing in every department of living nature, I may here notice, that of the common earth-worm, apparently so uniform in its shape, Savigny has lately, by a closer examination, been able to distinguish no less than twenty-two different species among those found in the neighbourhood of Paris alone.

† Home; Lectures, &c. Vol i. p. 115.