ther as belonging to his separate class Αμρηιβιλ, which, after the example of Blainville and Latreille, he constitutes by means of the entire Batrachian order.@@1 Thus also *La­certa apoda* of Pallas, though furnished on each side with a small bone analogous to the femur, and pertaining to an actual pelvis concealed beneath the skin, is yet classed by the great French anatomist with the Ophidians, being, so to say, the “ very head and front of their offending ;”@@s while several systematic writers range our *Anguis fragilis,* and other snakes commonly so called, among the lizards. An American reptile, *Anguis ventralis* of Linn., now forms Daudin’s genus *Ophisaurus,* the name of which (derived from ὄφις*, serpent,* and σαυϑoς, *lizard)* implies the peculiar combination now referred to. The Saurian genus *Seps,* described at the conclusion of our former treatise, is cha­racterized by Cuvier as having an elongated body, “ tout- à-fait semblable à celui d’un orvet’’ (*Anguis)* ; and, on the other hand, the same author enters upon his Ophidian or­der by means of the *Anguidæ,* or slow-worms, which he simply describes as “ des seps sans pieds.” These, and other examples which it would be easy to adduce, demon­strate the close connection which subsists between the Saurian and Ophidian orders.

It has indeed been customary to class among serpents whatever reptiles combined the absence of limbs with an extremely lengthened form of body ; but a more rigorous observation will demonstrate that several species which, in accordance with that principle, will take their place as ser­pents, are yet in their prevailing organic structure removed from them in most essential points, the chief resemblance being that of the external and extremely lengthened form. Now this attenuated aspect, and absence of all the ordinary locomotive members, are likewise exhibited by several Sau­rian reptiles, and of course in an increased degree as they actually approach the serpent or Ophidian tribes ; but the two characters just mentioned do not convert them from one order to another, being still held, as it were, in subor­dination to the general structure.@@3

We bring forward these observations at present, chiefly that the reader may understand why we commence our treatise on serpents by *a* brief sketch of several species which in truth we can scarcely regard as serpents at all, however raised “ to that bad eminence” by many noted writers. We might have placed them at the termination of the Saurian order of our former article Reptilia ; but the fact being that we did not do so, we feel it incumbent on us, before proceeding to the serpents properly so called, to pre­sent a short notice of their names and nature. In doing this we shall follow for a space the arrangement of Baron Cuvier, presuming that the reader will now understand our views regarding the doubtful nature of all those genera which precede the true serpents, of the advent of which due notice will be given.

The French anatomist defines serpents as,—reptiles with­out feet, which advance by means of sinuous movements of

the body. He divides them into three great groups,—the Anguidæ or slow-worms,—the true serpents (subdivided into, 1st, double movers, *i*. *e*. the genera *Amphisbæna* and *Typhlοps ;* 2dly, serpents properly so called, containing all the actually Ophidian species),—and the naked serpents, composed of the single genus *Cacilia.*

We commence, then, with the

ANGUIDÆ, OR SLOW-WORMS.

These still exhibit the bony head, the teeth, the tongue of *Seps,* and the eye is furnished with three eyelids. They correspond to the ancient unrestricted genus Anguis of Linnæus, and are characterized externally by imbricated scales covering the whole body. The species now form four minor genera, of which the first three still exhibit beneath the skin certain small bones corresponding to those of the shoulder and pelvis.

Genus Pseudopus, Merrem. Tympanum visible exter­nally. A prominence on each side of the anus, containing a small bone analogous to the femur, and appertaining to a true pelvis hid beneath the skin. Rudiments of the an­terior extremities barely manifested by an inconspicuous fold, containing no interior humerus. One of the lungs is a quarter less than the other. The scales are thick and imbricated, and between those of the back and belly are some smaller scales, which produce a longitudinal furrow on either side.

Of the species, the earliest known is *P. Pallasii,* Cuv,, *Laceτta apοda,* Pallas,—discovered in the south of Russia by the naturalist last named.@@\* It measures from one to two feet in length, and the colours are ferruginous above, pale yellow beneath. The scales of the back are smooth, those of the tail carinated. This species occurs also in Hungary and Dalmatia, and the specimen figured by Dr Shaw@@s was procured in Greece by Dr John Sibthorpe, the professor of botany in the university of Oxford. M. Dur- ville discovered another species (which bears his name) in the Archipelago.@@8 See Plate CCCCXLIII. fig. 1.

Genus Ophisaurus, Daudin. No external appearance even of the hinder extremities, but the tympanum is still apparent, and the scales exhibit a plication or folding upon each side of the trunk. The smaller lung only equals a third of the greater.@@7

The best known species is *Oph. ventralis,—Anguis ven­tralis,* Linn.,—an American reptile, common in the southern states of the union. It is of a greenish yellow, spotted above with black. Its tail is longer than its body, and the crea­ture itself is so brittle and easily broken, even in the living state, as to be known by the name of glass serpent. Ac­cording to Catesby, “ a small blow of a stick causes the body to separate, not only at the place struck, but at two or three other places, the muscles being articulated quite through the vertebrae.”@@·

***@@@1 Encyclopedia of Anatomy and Physiology,*** part i. p. 91. These amphibian orders are as follows : 1st, ***Anιpl∣ipneurta,*** containing the Si­rens and Proteans; 2d, ***Anoura,*** the frogs and toads ; 3d, ***Urodela,*** tbe salamanders; 4th, ***Abranchia,*** the genera Menopoma and Ampbiuma; and, 5th, ***Apoda,*** the genus Crecilia. “ It is easy,” adds Mr Swainson, “ to perceive that this last passes into the first by means of the dipod Sirens, and thus the whole form a circular group more or less perfect in its connecting links.” (***Cabinet Cydopœdia,*** vol. cxvi. p. 86.)

@@@s See ***Règne Animat,*** ii. 69.

@@@s “ Lin examen comparatif,” observes M. Schlegel, “ des objets m’a démontré que ces Sauriens anomaux, c’est-à-dire, à formes alongées et à extrémités rudimentaires, appartiennent toujours par l’ensemble de leur organisation à quelque espèce de l’une ou l’autre des familles de cet ordre, parmi lesquelles ils doivent être distribués. On ne peut nier, par exemple, qu’il y a un passage graduel des Scinques à l’Anguis et aux Acontias, par l'intermède des Scinques brachypus, decreensis, serpens, seps, du Pygodactyle et du Bipes,—êtres moins différons entre eux par leur organisation que par leurs formes, et qui ne composent qu’une seule famille, celle des Scincoïdes, de laquelle on ne sau­rait exclure ui les Ablephares ni les Gymnophthalmes. Le mime passage graduel existe dans la famille des Lézards, des genres Lacerta et Tachydromus au Monodactyle ; on y peut ajouter comme espèce anomale le Pygopus. On pourrait rapprocher dans la méthode le Tetradactyle, le Chalcis, le Pseudopus, et l’Ophisaurus. Viennent enfin la famille des Amphisbènes,—Chirotes, Leposternon, Amphisbaena, et celle des Typhlops,—Typhlops, Rhinophis, Uropeltis.” ***{Physiognomie des Serpens,*** i. p. 2.)

***@@@• Non. Com. Petrop.*** zïx. plate 9, fig. 1.

***@@@\* General Zoology,*** iii. plate 86.

@@@, Griffith’s ***Animat Kingdom,*** ix. 307.

@@@j Of the cranium of this genus, Cuvier has remarked, “ C’est une vraie tête de Saurien.” ***Règne Animal,*** iii. 430.

***@@@• Curotina,*** ii. plate 59.