

less the animal, the more prolific it will be found in its species, and that its enemies and destroyers are always in proportion to the numerous multiplication of its progeny. In the present instance, there is not a predatory shellfish, but which is an avowed enemy to the bivalved race, and more particularly of the muscle; all the various species of crabs, crayfish, &c. pursue and devour them with avidity; but the trochus is their most formidable enemy: thousands of their shells are found entirely destitute of substance, and which has evidently been drawn out by the trochus, as in those cases a small hole is invariably to be perceived in some part of the shells.

But notwithstanding the number of this creature's animated enemies, it seems still more fearful of the agitations of the element in which it resides; for if dashed against rocks, or thrown far on the beach, it is destroyed without a power of redress. In order to guard against these, which are to this animal the most common and the most fatal accidents, although it has a power of slow motion, yet it endeavours to become stationary, and to attach itself to any fixed object it happens to be near. For this purpose it is furnished with a very singular capacity