

formed of little rings, or annular segments, and which have red blood; as the Leech, Earth-worm, &c. Some are naked, and move with great celerity; as the *Gordius*, or Hair-worm, and the *Nereis*, so frequent on the sands of the sea-shore. Others have shelly coverings, as the *Serpula*, and are sedentary, or fixed to other bodies; and some perforate and inhabit shells and corals. The soft bodies of certain species are protected by a coat, or tube, formed by the agglutination of sand, or other foreign substances, as in the *Sabella* (*Lign.* 87, fig. 6, p. 375.).

The fossil remains of the testaceous Annelides, are very abundant in some deposits; and even the naked, flexible, soft-bodied forms have left proofs of their existence in some of the most ancient sedimentary rocks; traces of six species, belonging to four genera, having been observed in the Silurian strata.

The first notice of these remarkable remains appeared in the invaluable work of Mr. Murchison (*Sil. Syst.* pl. 30.). "Singular convoluted impressions had been observed by the Rev. A. Oliphant, of Llampeter College, on the surface of the building-stone of that place; and, upon submitting some specimens to the examination of Mr. W. Macleay, that profound naturalist pronounced them to have been formed by sea-worms."\* The living species

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\* Murch. *Sil. Syst.* p. 699.