

*trochilus*, enters and devours, without receiving any injury from the monster." Geoffroy St. Hilaire asserts that no leeches are found in the Nile, and therefore supposes the *Bdellæ* of the father of history were not leeches but mosquitoes. But Savigny has described a leech under the name of *Bdella nilotica*\* which he regards as synonymous with the leech of Herodotus. Bosc mentions one which was found in the stagnant waters in Egypt, when not inflated as small as a horse-hair, which very much annoyed the French soldiers, attacking them in nearly the same way; when they drank, fastening itself to their *throat*, and occasioning hemorrhages and other serious accidents.

Mr. Madox, in his *Excursions in the Holy Land, Egypt, &c.*, states that he had frequently seen, on the banks of the Nile, a bird about the size of a dove, or rather larger, of handsome plumage, and making a twittering noise when on the wing. It had a peculiar motion of the head, as if nodding to some one near it, at the same time turning itself to the right and left, and making its *congé* twice or thrice before its departure. This bird, he was told, was called *Sucksague*, and that tradition had assigned to it the habit of entering the mouth of the crocodile, when basking in the sun on a sand-bank, for the purpose of picking what might be adhering to its teeth: which being done, upon a hint from the bird, the reptile opens his mouth and permits it to fly away.†

This seems evidently the *Trochilus* of Herodotus, above alluded to, as clearing the mouth of the crocodile from the leeches. Aristotle, in more than one place of his *History of Animals*, mentions such a bird, and a similar tradition concerning it, with that of Mr. Madox. "The *Trochilus*, flying into the yawning mouth of the crocodile, cleanses his teeth, and thus is provided with food; the latter, sensible of the

\* Fig. 53.

† Excursions, &c. i. 408.