electric shock can be communicated through a thick mass of water. Mr. Williams, at Philadelphia, and Mr. Fahlberg, at Stockholm, have both seen them kill from far living fishes which they wished to devour: Lacepede says they can do this at the distance of *sixteen* feet. They are said also to emit sparks.

Of all the *Gymnoti* the *electric* is the only species in which the natatory vesicle extends from the head to the tail; it is in that species of the extraordinary length of two feet five inches, and one inch and two lines wide, but the diameter diminishes greatly towards the tail: it reposes upon the electric organs. It has been asserted that this fish is attracted by the loadstone, and that by contact with it it is deprived of its torporific powers.*

It is singular that in the three principal animals which Providence has signalized by this wonderful property, the organs of it should differ so much, both in their number, situation, and other circumstances; but as there appears to be little other connection between them, it was doubtless to accommodate them to the mode of life and general organization of the fishes so privileged.

There is another little fish, of a very different tribe, which emulates the electric ones, in bringing its prey within its reach, by discharging a grosser element at them. It belongs to a genus† the species of which are remarkable for the singularity of their forms, the brilliancy of their colours, and the vivacity of their movements. The species I allude to‡ may be called the *fly-shooter*, from its food

* The authors from whom my information on the electric fishes is chiefly derived, are Rudolphi, Anatomische Bemerkungen, &c. 1826; Geoffroy, Ann. du Mus. i.; Lacepede, Hist. des Poissons; Humboldt, Observations de Zoologie et d'Anatomie comparée; and Bosc, in N. D. D'Hist. Nat. xii. xiv. xxxiv.

† Chætodon. ‡ C. rostratus.