

### **III. Snakes.**

#### **§. 15.**

In very developed embryos of a boa, which I owe to the kindness of Herr Obermedicinalrath von Froriep, I found the Wolffian bodies just as I did in the second observation on lizards.

I cannot help but mention here a correspondence from Dr. Rathke of 18 February 1829 because it contains an addition to the previously publicly remunerated remarks. It says: "In pigs, sheep, and chickens, I have perceived, as plain as it can be, that some of the false kidneys become the epididymis, while the other part disappears. In contrast, with the serpents it was quite impossible for me to ascertain whether the same case takes place, although I examined a large number of young snakes. In all them, the last trace of the false kidneys was so delicate that I could not succeed in finding out whether the peculiar vessels of this remnant are connected or not with the seminal vessels of the testes."

May my venerable friend forgive me, although here again I doubt such a connection, which I once believed in myself. With my highly esteemed colleague M. Weber, who will enrich us with a very precise work on the sexual parts of serpents, I examined the testicles in many snakes, especially in very fresh subjects. Here I never found a trace of the peculiar small appendix of Wolff's body, but a small epididymis, consisting only of distinct turns of the vas deferens. Probably the last remnants of Wolff's body disappear in young snakes, as in the young birds.