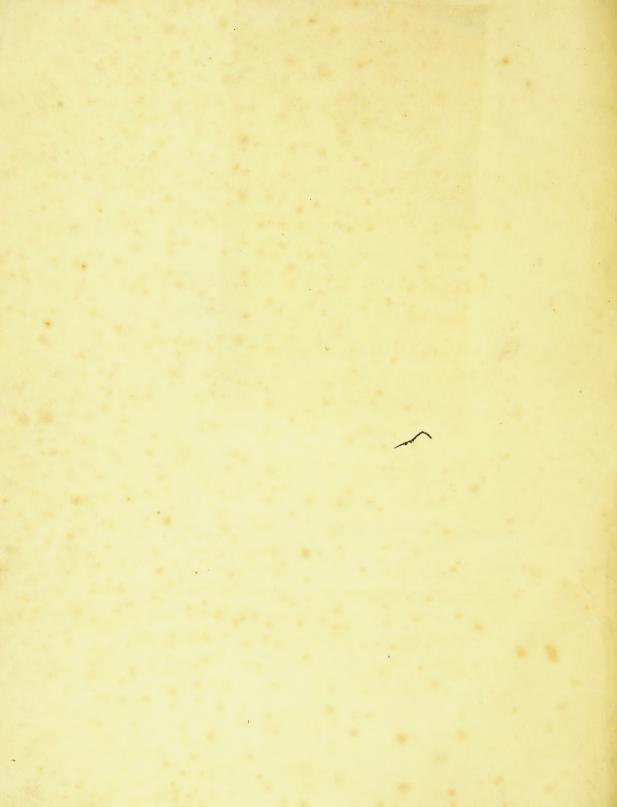


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DECADE

OF

CURIOUS INSECTS: SOME OF THEM NOT DESCRIB'D BEFORE:

SHEWN IN

THEIR NATURAL SIZE;

AND AS THEY APPEAR ENLARG'D BEFORE

THE LUCERNAL MICROSCOPE;

In which the SOLAR APPARATUS is artificially illuminated.

With their HISTORY, CHARACTERS, MANNERS, and PLACES of ABODE;

On TEN QUARTO PLATES, and their Explanations. DRAWN AND ENGRAVED FROM NATURE.

By J. HILL, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR, in St. James's-Street. And Sold by B. WHITE, in Fleet-Street; P. ELMSLY, in the Strand; PARKER, in Cornhill; BALDWIN, in Pater-nofter-Row; RIDLEY, St. James's Street; and J. BALFOUR, at Edinburgh:

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Addies who may chuse to paint these Infects themselves may have Sets of the Cuts on Royal Paper printed pale for that purpose.

INSECTS, ENGRAVED FROM NATURE.

CLASS I.

THOSE WHICH HAVE FOUR GAUZY WINGS,

AND

A WEAPON IN THE TAIL.

BY Gauzy Wings, we underftand fuch as are thin, tender, and transparent: not crusty, as the Beetles; nor leathery, as the Crickets; nor dusty, as the Moths and Butterflies; but *clear*. Such are the wings of common Flies.

GENUS

A 2

[4]

GENUS I.

SAW-FLY. TENTHREDO.

Character of the Genus.

The MOUTH is form'd of Jaws ; and has no Trunk.

The SCUTCHEON, has two finall, diftant, elevated points, on its hinder part.

The WINGS lie plain; but are a little puff'd up, and uneven.

The WEAPON at the tail is fhort; and form'd of two plates, jagged like a Saw; and hollow'd lengthwife in the Female. Plain in the Male. Plate 1. abcd.

All two-wing'd Flies have a pair of Plummets behind their Wings; rifing from under a bloated Scale. Those fwellings in the Saw-Fly feem to be fuch Scales not open'd; and never difclosing any Plummets.

Nature does all things regularly; and makes her advances by equal and gradual degrees: and this feems her gradation from the two-wing'd to the four-wing'd Claffes of Infects; the first in which the Plummets cease.

We fhall find throughout her univerfal regions, that creatures differ by equidiftant fteps from one another; and that this difference, this advance of Species above Species, is all her laws allow. All real knowledge of her works is, and for ever will be, confined to this; the knowing and eftablishing the differences of one Species from another: Claffes, and Genera, tho' uleful, are arbitrary; ideas of mens minds; that exift not in nature.

To know thefe characters of difference, is all : but the partswhich mark them; the greater, as well as the leffer; are fo imperfectly feen in the fmaller Infects, that their names, or kinds, often cannot be known; nor does the mind perceive the wonders of the Creator difplay'd in thefe his creatures. "Tis therefore they are here reprefented both in their natural fize; and as they appear before a fmall, but diffinct magnifying power: and that way only they can be either well known, or juftly admir'd.

I. MOURN-

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I.

MOURNING SAW-FLY.

TENTHREDO LUCTUOSA.

Plate 1.

Character of the Species.-

The ANTLERS have feven joints, and are all the way of a thickness.

The HEAD and Trunk are red; the Body is black.

Plate 1. a.

This pretty, quiet, melancholy Fly is found among Alder Plantations; and is often fatally entangled in the clammy juice, that oozes from their Leaves. I caught it this last May, by the road-fide, near Uxbridge.

Its HEAD is of the fineft fcarlet: The Eyes are blue. The Antlers are of a dufky brown, and hairy. The Feelers fhort, and pale. The Mouth is arm'd with hard and crufty jaws.

Its TRUNK is fearlet above, and of a ruddy brown below. The Scutcheon is of a deeper red. The Points on it are blue.

The BODY is coal-black above, and greyifh black below.
Its Rings are divided by lines, form'd of a deep brown membrane joining them.
Its Air-boles are of a dead brown.

The LEGS are grey; they are all of a length, and have two claws.

The WINGS are of a pale yellowish brown, with little yellow risings, on the ribs, and an edge of deeper yellow.

The TAIL is of a deep brown.

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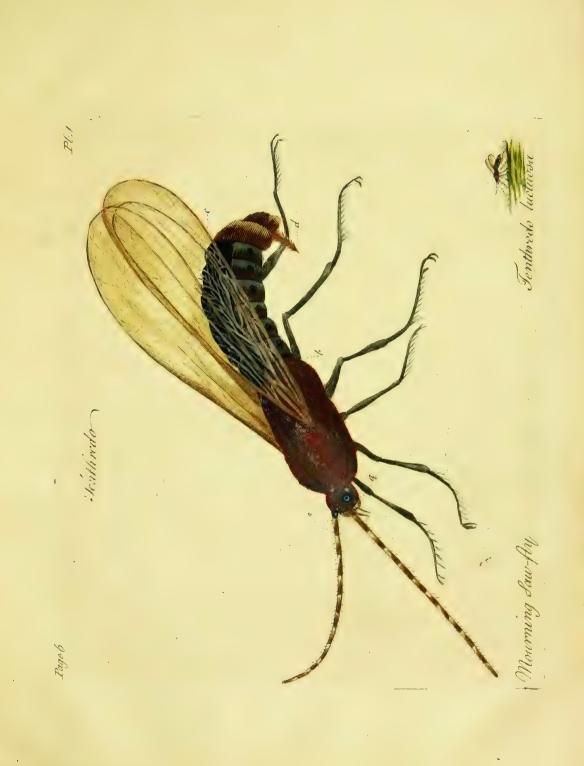
'The STING or Saw which terminates it, is flatted, and thin, and of a chefnut brown; faw'd in the Female, plain in the Male. On prefing the body of the Fly between the fingers, it may be forc'd out farther, a little from the vent.

This is the *Tenthredo-Alni*, of the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus. Perhaps alfo, it is the Tenthredo Ovata of the fame work; for Infects are not fo numerous, as 'tis the custom now to think them: and colour, tho' an obvious, is no certain character among these creatures: in fome it differs with the feason; in others, with the fex; in all, it glows according to the creature's health and vigour: in most, it is exalted in the time of courtship, as the feathers on the necks of fome Fowls; and in fome, it fades, and is lost utterly in dying, as the colours of many fishes.

This pretty Fly rifes from a yellow Worm with a black head, and twenty little feet; frequent in fummer on the Alders, and bury'd under ground all winter for its change: in May we fee it perfect.

'Twere well if we knew all the Infects, as this is known; but 'tis only a fmall part that have been trac'd fo thoroughly; where they have, it makes a great addition to their hiftory: but where the eye has not diffinctly feen it, 'tis beft to be filent. They who relate their errors and conjectures, under the feeming face of knowledge, deceive, and are deceiv'd.

II. MOTTLED



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II.

MOTTLED SAW-FLY. TENTHREDO VARIEGATA.

Plate 2.

The ANTLERS have more than twenty joints; and grow finall to the point.

The HEAD is blue; the Trunk is deep grey, mottled with yellow; the BODY is black.

Plate 2

This is a very ftrange and delicate Fly: 'tis found in damp woods and moors in August and September.

The HEAD is of a fhining blue. The Eyes are green. The Antlers are amber-colour'd. The Feelers fhort, and brown. And the Jaws of a yellow brown.

The TRUNK is of an iron-grey, mottled with irregular fpots of gold, like the womens tambour-work in embroidery. The Scutcheon is entirely raven-grey. The Points on it are black.

The BODY is coal-black above, and raven-grey below. The *Lines* dividing the rings are brownifh. The *Air-boles* are black.

The LEGS are of a fine bright yellow, with black claws.

The WINGS are brown, with a dufky edge.

The TAIL is amber-colour'd.

I received

I received this pretty creature by an accident from Scotland: the Duke of Athol found, this Autumn, in an oak-wood near Dunkeld, a Whortleberry-Shrub with white fruit: a thing not known before in Britain. His Grace did me the honour to fend me fome growing Plants of this finall Shrub, for the garden of her Royal Highnefs the Prince's Dowager of Wales at Kew; and upon one of them came feveral of thefe Flies wrap'd up alive.

It feems the Tenthredo Sylvatica of the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus.

The Fly is Female, that is here defcrib'd; the Male has no Saw, for he has no use for it. Nature has given that inftrument to the Female, to cut a way into a growing Vegetable; and there to lodge the eggs: which pass through the hollow made by the two sides or plates of the Saw.

The Male has in the fame place, a kind of Forceps, or Pincers, which he can thruft out, and with them feize the Female. Thus in larger animals, where the Female has teats for fuck, the Male has a refemblance of them for conformity.

When the Female lays her eggs, there goes with them an acid mucilaginous juice, which perverts the courfe of the Sap in the Plant, and makes it grow into a kind of gall : this operates as foon as it is iffu'd, and cicatrizes the part the Saw had wounded.

One may fee bubbles of this juice always left upon the Plant; it is foft and clammy: the wound is oblong, and crooked, and the part becomes black as if burnt: the egg increafes in bignefs to twice or more than that, after it is lodg'd in the Plant; nor is this ftrange fince it has no hard covering.



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GENUS II.

THE SAVAGE.

S P H E X.

Plate 3.

Character of the Genus.

The MOUTH is form'd of oblong Jaws, without Trunk, or Tongue. The WINGS lie fmooth, and perfectly even.

The ANTLERS have ten joints.

The WEAPON at the tail is fimple, fharp, and hollow; and does not appear, except the Body be prefs'd; or the creature firikes with it.

Nothing can be fo provident as this creature for its young; nor any thing fo favage, as the means it uses for that purpose. The manner of living is different in the various Species; and so is the general form of the Body: the present and succeeding figure will show this difference of shape: yet all the while the Genus is, and must be allowed the fame, because the Characters in all the diffinctive parts agree. And in the same manner, tho' the place of shelter, and the course of life, be utterly different; yet the same manners appear innate, and inherent in both.

They agree in being the fierceft of all Flys; they will attack Infects much larger than themfelves; and this, whether they be defencelefs, or arm'd, as they are, with a Sting. The Strength in all this favage kind is great; their Jaws are hard, and fharp; and in their Sting is a poilon, fuddenly fatal to the creatures with whom they engage. The Savage feizes hardily on the creature he attacks: and gives a ftroke of an amazing force; and then falls off, as if himfelf were kill'd: but 'tis to reft from his fatigue, and to enjoy his victory. He keeps a fteady eye on the creature he has ftruck, 'till it dies, which is in a few minutes; and then drags it to the neft, for the young. The number of other Infects thefe deftroy, is fcarce to be conceiv'd; the mouth of their cave is like a Giant's of old in romance; ftrew'd with the remains of prey: the Eyes, the Filament that ferves as Brain, and a fmall part of the contents of the Body, are all the Savage eats: and he will kill fifty for a meal.

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I. COMB-

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I. COMBFOOTED SAVAGE. SPHEX PECTINIPES.

Plate 3.

Character of the Species.

The ANTLERS are form'd of oval Joints, and turn like rams-horns.

The FORE-FEET are form'd like combs, with three claws, and fliff hairs above.

The Body is join'd close to the Trunk. Plate 3. a b.

This firong and fierce, tho' heavy Fly, lives in caverns of the earth, in the fides of hills and cliffs; and in holes made in the mudwalls of our little villages. I received this from the North of Ireland, where the mud-walls of one of the cabins on the fide of a hill, was wrought into the appearance of a Honeycomb, by the multitudes of thefe creatures.

Its HEAD is of a chefnut brown.

The Eyes are blue.

The Antlers are brown; but the tip of each joint is ruddy.

The Jaws are amber-colour'd.

The Feelers pale brown.

The TRUNK is black, and rough.

The Scutcheon is grey.

The BODY is fmooth, and fhining; of a rufty iron colour, with bands of an orange yellow.

The Air-holes are brown.

The LEGS are of a blue grey; and the long hairs upon the fore ones, toward the feet, are yellowifh.

The WINGS are of a pale brown.

The STING, when the creature pleases to shew it, is of a fine polish'd brown.

This feems unquestionably the Sphex Pectinipes of the Systema Naturæ.

It is drawn here, as fhewn by the fourth glafs of the lucernal microfcope; not magnify'd in any vaft degree; but fufficiently to fhew all its parts. Creatures much fmaller require often larger figures to exprefs their organs diffinctly. All magnitude is comparative; and to be ufeful, the inftrument fhould be employ'd with juft fo much power as is needful for diffinctnefs.

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2. THE TURNER SAVAGE.

SPHEX SPIRIFEX.

Plate 4.

Character of the Species.

The Body is join'd to the trunk by a long fmall thread.

The ANTLERS have ten joints; and they fpread out, and grow fmall to the point.

The FEET are jointed, and equally hairy; and have each two toes.

This ftrange disjointed creature, as it feems, lives, by choice, among men, whom it never offends; but it is beyond measure terrible to the leffer infects: and by the fabricature of its dwelling, it might become an object of furprife and wonder; tho' there were nothing more to recommend it to our notice.

I received this particular Fly from Peterborough in Northamptonfhire, where it had form'd its cells in the mud-wall of a fmall cottage, just under the edge of the thatch; dry, warm, and shelter'd from the weather.

The preceding kind lives in a mere cave of its own making; a fimple, oval hole, with a finall opening, and larger within: this had turn'd its dwelling in a clofe fpiral form, and polifh'd the infide fo well, that it had the afpect of one of the fpiral fhells we fee in cabinets, when faw'd open: about the mouth of this, was form'd a kind of funnel, covered with legs and wings of flaughter'd Infects; and juft within this mouth ufually fat the inhabitant watching what came by; for the ftrange ftructure of his body made him lefs fond of flying far; left half of it fhould be left behind him.

Befide the aftonishing havock of this creature among the Infects, on which it preys, there is a part of its history ftrangely replete with horror: it has been observed, that while the Savages are fo deftructive of other creatures, they have a wonderful attention to their young; and this, by a course of Providence unknown to us, any more than by the term instinct, appears in all their actions, even before those young are born.

In

In the preceding kind, the eggs are laid in the back part of the cavern where the creature lives; evenly arrang'd; and when the time of their hatching is near, the Fly brings in a number of flaughter'd Infects, for the food of the expected young ones: fhe then clofes up the mouth of the hole with mud, and her care is over. When the young worms hatch, they find their food ready; and when they have eaten their fill, they reft, and take their change into the Fly.

But this creature lays her eggs in the body of a living Caterpillar: they hatch, and eat that creature up, even while itfelf is feeding: at their appointed time they hatch: and 'twas long a wonder among the curious, how a Caterpillar produced this Fly, inftead of a Butterfly, or Moth; or how one Infect chang'd to many.

The HEAD of this creature is of a chefnut brown, with a shade of blue.

The Eyes are black, and large.

The Antlers are of a ruddy brown.

The Feelers are blackish.

The Jaws are hard, ferrated, and yellow.

The TRUNK is of a ruddy brown.

The Scutcheon is yellow.

The Thread which fastens the two parts together, is also yellow.

The Body is of the colour of rufty iron; but there is a fkin of yellow covering part of it from the end of the thread. The Air-holes are black.

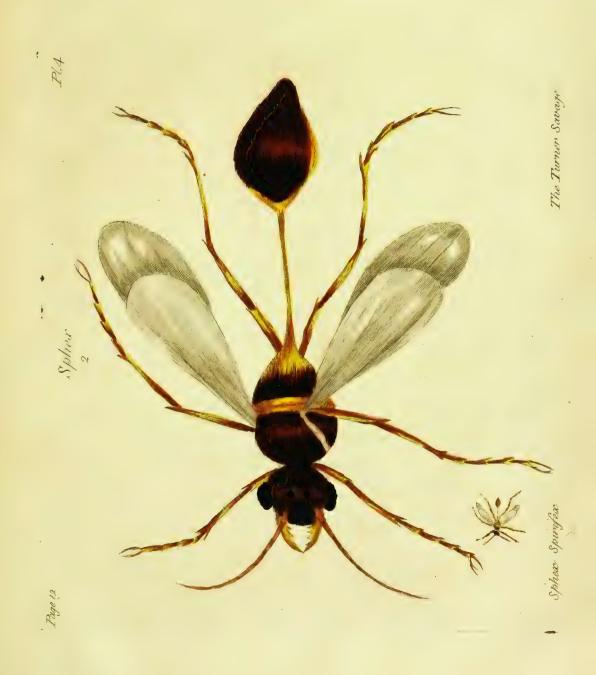
The LEGS are partly brown, and partly yellow.

The Wings are of a dusky brown.

The STING is yellow.

The drawing of this, as of the former, is not greatly magnify'd; the fame fourth glafs was us'd to it; the creature being naturally of a fize nearly big enough to fhew its own particularities; and always here the lefs magnifying is wanted, the lefs is us'd.

GENUS



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GENUS III.

ANT-EATER. MYRMELEON.

Character of the Genus.

The MOUTH is form'd of Jaws, with two long Tufks. The ANTLERS are club fafhion'd; and there are four long Feelers. The WINGS hang down.

The TAIL is arm'd with a pair of Knippers, in the Male.

1. THE GREY ANT-EATER. MYRMELEO FORMICARUM.

Plate 5.

In many of the wing'd Infects, their prior form of the Worm, or Reptile, rifing immediately from the egg, demands a fhare of our attention, with the Infect in its more perfect and more beautiful appearance; in the prefent kind, our greateft admiration is demanded in that lefs perfect flate. The Butterflies arife from Caterpillars; the Beetles from fix-footed Worms; and the Dragon-flies from Infects without Wings, which fwim about in water. The creature under confideration here, approaches to the Dragon Fly in kind; and in its figure, in the Reptile State; being a broad and bloated hexapode; but inhabiting the dryeft earth.

It is known that birds and beafts of prey can endure great and longcontinued hunger; the fierceft moft. This creature, ally'd to the Savages in its manners, can alfo bear their abfinence: La Hire, of the Paris Academy, obferv'd about fourfcore years ago, that the creature could bear a feven months faft; 'twas to him we owe the firft notice of this Infect; fo well defcribed foon after by Vallifnieri, and Poupart; and fo much fpoken of, and fo poorly underftood, by the petty retailers of natural knowledge fince.

The Reptile State of this pretty Fly, known by the name Formicaleo, is a coarfe Infect, of a pale yellow, ftreak'd with brown, and varied with fome black tufts of hairs; but ufually it is fo covered with dirt, that it looks brown: its habitation is under ground; it forms a pit, like a funnel, of dry duft, and lies conceal'd in the centre of it, to catch the Ants, or other little creatures, that fall into it.

Its Head is broad, and flat, and has a pair of Tusks, or Horns; or, by whatever name we may call parts unknown to larger animals; these

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are fharp, open, and hollow : with thefe he pierces the bodies of Infects; with thefe he draws in their juices for his food; and when that is done, they have an elaftic force, by which they throw the carcafe far away. He retires under ground to feed, and just rifes to throw the refuse out of his pit; then repairs its injuries, and waits for the next chance. These pits are about three inches wide; the creature leaves them, and makes new ones at his pleasure : and in this state he always lives many months, fometimes two years, before he turns into the Fly, now to be defcrib'd.

MYRMELEO FORMICARUM. THE ANT-EATER FLY.

Plate 5.

The ANTLERS are compos'd of twenty-four joints, and grow larger to the tip.

This is a large Fly, not fwift in its motions, but fierce and deftructive; even in a degree equal to that of the Reptile, from which it fprings: it plays about the bufhes in the meadows of France and Italy, in the latter part of fummer, and will feize on almost any thing it can catch.

Its HEAD is of a chefnut brown.

The Eyes are vaft, and green.

The Antlers are of a deep brown.

The Feelers are long, and dufky; there are four of them.

The Jaws are yellow, hard, and tharp; and the two Tufks are brown.

Its TRUNK is of a greyish brown, with a gilded variegation. The Scutcheon is blueish.

Its BODY is of a pearly grey, deep, and not elegant.

The Lines or Rings are black.

The Air-holes are edg'd round with brown.

Its LEGS are short, strong, and ruddy, with long dark hairs.

Its WINGS are grey; and in the particular Fly before me, there are four fpots of a dufky brown upon each of the upper ones, and two on each of the under: I fay, in this particular Fly, which is from Italy; for there are more, or fewer, or none, in those from other places.

The Knippers at the Tail are horny, and chefnut colour'd.

This is the Fly of the famous Formicaleo, the Myrmelea Formicarum of the lateft writers.

GENUS



[16]

1. THE OAK LEAF GALL FLY.

CYNIPS QUERCUS FOLII.

The ANTLERS are hoop'd, and have a thick extremity. The TRUNK is bloated, and streak'd.

This Infect I received from Norway, where the oaks were in a manner covered with it, in the months of July, and part of August, 1768; and in our own oak-woods I have seen such a Fly frequently; and found it, tho' differing a little in colour, perfectly the same in all its characters. It is a strong, coarse-made, and not very handsome Fly; and is show and heavy in its motions: and is generally found strong on the under part of a leaf, with its wings spread out flat.

Its HEAD is of a ruffet brown. The Eyes are blue. The Antlers are mottled, of black and chefnut colour. The Feelers are brown. The Jaws are fharp, jagg'd, and brown.

Its TRUNK is of a raven grey, very beautifully ftreaked with white.

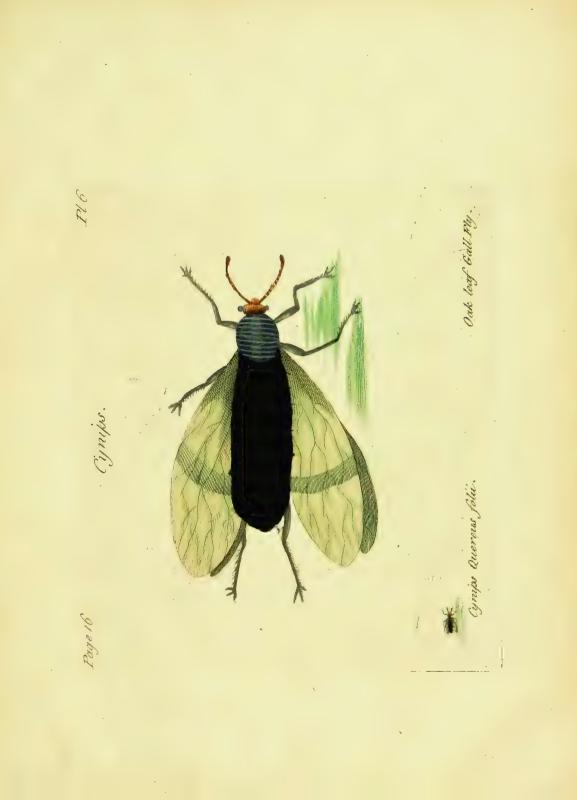
Its BODY is coal black. The *Rings* dividing the Joints are brown. The *Air-holes* are dufky.

Its LEGS are grey, with fliff black hairs, and black toes; and the thigh is black.

Its WINGS are of a pale brown, with a tinge of olive-colour; the Veins on them are deep grey.

Its TAIL is perfectly black. The Sting is chefnut brown.

With us the Trunk and Body of this Fly are quite black; otherwife there is no difference between fome I caught this year in Bufhy Park; and those I had from Norway.



[17.]

GENUS V.

D A Y - F L Y.

PHRYGANEA.

Plate 7.

The MOUTH is oblong, and without Teeth.

There are no Feelers.

There are two large *Studs* upon the Head, just above the eyes. The WINGS are carry'd standing upwards, and are unequal in fize. The TAIL has briftles annex'd to it.

The Day-Flies are an inoffenfive race; born to pass thro' their little ftage of being, the prey to a thousand enemies; but hurtful to no creature: they live about waters, in which they breed; and in their Fly state have so short a term, that it has been the subject of separate histories, by Naturalist, and Emblems for moral writers. The name, Day-Fly, arises from their living in that state but one day: but in many of the species, even that period is much longer than is allowed.

The particular kind first to be figured and described in this place, never bursts from its Reptile state, till about fix o'clock in a summer evening; and never lives to see the next fun rife.

Five hours complete its little fpan of life; in the which time, if it efcape the Fifh, the Dragon-Flies, and Reed Sparrows, (for all are after it) it copulates with the Male; deposits its impregnated eggs in the waters; and dies before the cold of midnight.

But 'tis not that thefe hours are all it lives; 'tis in thefe only it enjoys the air : but the Worm hatched from the egg of this Fly lives, and feeds heartily in the waters, enjoying a much longer date, and that in more fecurity; for it covers its tender frame with a motley cafe of its own conftructing; and gormandizes unfufpected, and unfeen; for one, or fometimes nearly for two years.

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1. THE

[18]

I. THE WHITE-WING DAY-FLY.

EPHEMERA CULICIFORMIS.

Plate 7.

The ANTLERS have a multitude of knotted joints, and grow fmaller to the point.

The BRISTLES of the Tail are hard, and firm.

This is a fwift-wing'd Fly, abundant about running waters, in the months of June and July; where it becomes the food of a multitude of fifnes: many leap at it as it drops toward the water; and others watch the reeds and rufhes near the fhore, and take it with more eafe as it is dropping its eggs. This was caught in July laft, near Efher.

Its HEAD is of a dufky brown. The Eyes are green. The Studs are jet black, and fhine. The Antlers are of a chefnut brown. The Mouth is a kind of amber-colour'd beak.

Its TRUNK is of a tawny brown, with a brighter spot in the middle. The Scutcheon is nearly white.

Its BODY is of a dead brown. The Rings are pale.

Its LEGs are of a greyish, or ash colour.

The WINGS, tho' not decorated as the Moths, or Butterflies; yet have a peculiar and wonderful prettinefs: they are of a pearly white, mottled here and there, and clouded as it were with the fame colour, only thicker, or lefs pure.

The TAIL is pale brown. The Briftles are ruddy.



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2. ROCK DAY-FLY.

EPHEMERA RUPESTRIS.

Plate 8.

The ANTLERS have a multitude of close-connected joints, and grow all the way fmaller to a point.

The BRISTLES at the Tail are fhort, and weak.

Nothing can be ftranger than the hiftory of this Fly, which came to my knowledge by an accident laft year; and, I believe, has not been obferved by any writer.

On a ftone obelifk, erected before a houfe in London, to fupport the lamp, I obferved feveral oblong, greyifh tubes, or cafes, running in various directions; fome ftrait, and others a little bent. I fhould have fuppofed them the tubuli, or cafes of Sea Worms, petrify'd, as is frequent in many kinds of ftone; but that these obelifks carried very plainly the marks of the chiffel; and the little tubules I obferved were wrought over them; and therefore evidently had been formed after the ftone was work'd.

The fingularity of this, caufed me to direct a fervant to pick off fome of them; which he attempted in vain: he found them as hard as the reft of the ftone, and fixed to it with great firmnefs: with the help of a hammer, fome few were at length got off; and I found nothing fhelly in them; but that they were mere ftony tubes, form'd of the matter of the obelifk, in fmall granules, cemented clofe.

In breaking feveral others, I at length found in fome, the creature which had form'd them for its houfe and fhelter: this was a little yellowifh Worm, with a black head, and a number of fmall, fhort feet. It ufually refided in the bottom of the tubule; but came out at pleafure.

On fome cobwebs, about the upper part of the obelifk, I found, among other Infects, the remains of two or three Flies, feeming either of the Day-Fly, or Moth kind; but too imperfect for me to afcertain the Species.

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Thus refted the matter for that time; but my curiofity being roufed by the ftrangenefs of the incident, I examined large maffes of ftone, wherever I faw them, this laft year; and happening to be in Buckinghamfhire in July, I found the whole mystery explained.

Several large fromes that frood in water at their bottom, tho' dry enough above, were covered with grey, frony tubules of this kind; and about one of these masses, on the evening of the 18th of July, I found more than fifty, of the Fly, to the Worm of which they owed their origin. 'Tis a very pretty creature, and in all respects of the Day-Fly kind.

Its HEAD is hoary, and of a ftrong fine green, with a black round fpot on its centre, fhining at the fummit.

The Eyes are black as jet.

The Studs are brown.

The Antlers are scarlet, long, thrust strait forward, and usually cross'd. The Mouth is dusky.

Its TRUNK is of a lovely green, and is join'd to the body by a kind of neck, which is also of a velvety green.

The Back is beautifully variegated with ftreaks and dots of gold. The Scutcheon is of a lighter green.

Its BODY is thick, and green, and is connected to the Trunk almost without a division.

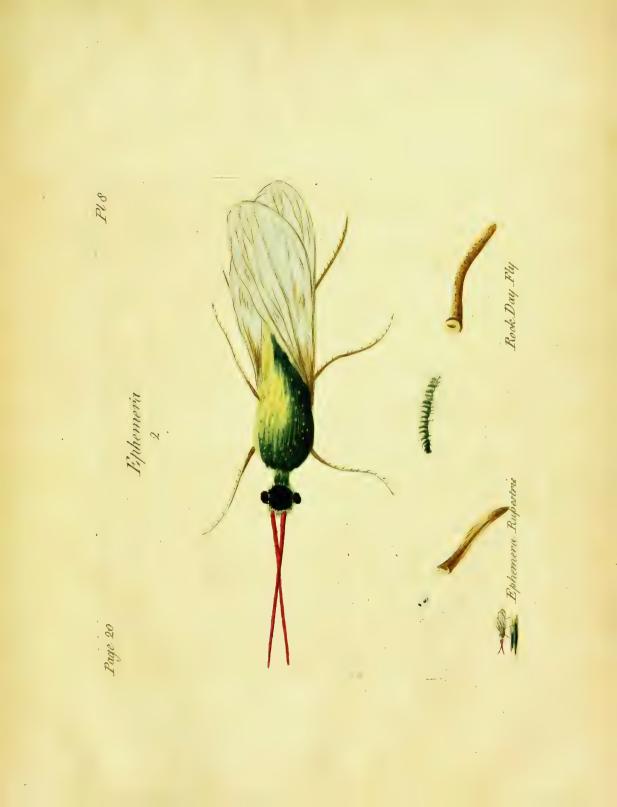
Its LEGS are of a pale brown.

Its WINGS of the fame pearly grey with the preceding; but elegantly vein'd, and clouded with a pale blue, and a light brown.

The BRISTLES are amber-colour.

I believe this Fly lives no longer than one evening in its wing'd ftate: the Females, among those I faw, were very bufily depositing eggs in all the cracks and crevices of the ftones. The Worms hatched from these, make the ftone tubules for themselves, and probably-live in them one or two years.

INSECTS.



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INSECTS.

CLASS II.

Those which have four feathery wings.

BY feathery wings, we underftand fuch as are form'd, in appearance, as of the feathers of birds : each wing confifting of only one fuch feather; tho' fometimes fplit, or divided.

GENUSI. CHINCH. ALLUCITA.

Plate 9.

The ANTLERS are compos'd of a few oval joints; and the extreme one runs out into a point.

The TAIL is fplit, and hairy.

The FEATHERS, which are plac'd as wings, confift of jointed ribs, and thin flat plates fet regularly on them.

The Chinches are a race of Infects fo extremely fmall, that they have in a great measure escaped observation. Few of those who have ftudied these fmall objects, have seen any of them; and from such as have, very little of their nature is to be learn'd, for they have only casually come before the eye: and those microscopes, by the affistance of which they have been examined, and figured here, have not been known till lately.

The creatures in the Infect world, to which the Chinches approach the neareft, are the feather-wing Moths; but from these they differ abundantly in the structure of their Antlers, and the shape of their body, their motions, and peculiar formation of their Tails. Those Moths have been called Phalenæ Alucitæ; and the latter term therefore alone seems the most familiar and intelligible name for these.

The feathers which compofe, or rather which are the wings of the Chinches, tho' they very much refemble the plumes of birds in appearance, are in reality very different, and have nothing truly feathery in them. They are compos'd of a hollow jointed rib, not unlike fome of the Corallines; and the hairs, or plumes, as they feem, which rife from them, are flat, thin, conic fcales.

I. THE

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I. THE STRAW-COLOUR'D CHINCH.

ALLUCITA PALLIDA.

Each wing is composed of one diftinct undivided feather.

Plate 9.

This is a creature very firange in its nature, and hiftory; and which once came as ftrangely before me. A fludious gentleman, very fubject to the head-ach, which he, and his phyfician, both attributed to great attention; fneezing one day with violence, as he was writing, faw fome atoms a moment afterwards upon a fheet of white paper that lay upon his table; and they plainly moved : he doubled up the paper, and brought it to me : when we laid a parcel of thefe moving particles before the lucernal microfcope, they appeared of the fize and figure reprefented at Plate 9; and were in continual motion; vibrating their Antlers, fhaking their Wings, and turning up their Tail to their Heads, in the manner of Earwigs, but with an incredible fwiftnefs.

'Twas palpable they had been difcharged from his nofe; and 'tis very eafy to fee whence they were thrown, and to understand how they might have caused intolerable pain, while they were thus raising and moving their irritating hairs, and feathers, upon a part where the very fubstance of the brain is almost naked.

I had feen the fame Species inhabiting the Flowers of the Plant Mignonette ; and on afking, found he had that Plant in his chamber.

The HEAD of this creature is lemon-colour'd.

Its Eyes are of a delicate blue.

The Studs over them deep black.

Its Antlers are of the paleft brown, but ruddy at the base of each Joint. The Feelers are pale, and small.

Its TRUNK is of a pale straw-colour.

The Scutcheon has a tint of greenish.

Its BODY is very pale ftraw-colour.

The Rings dividing it are whitish.

Its LEGS are pale brown, but deeper at the joints.

Its WINGS are whitish, with a dusk of brown.

Its TAIL is amber-colour'd.

Pl 9 The Strawcolourd Allucity Allucia Pallida Page 22

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2. THE TAWNY CHINCH.

ALLUCITA FULVA.

Plate 10.

Each wing is compoled of two feathers, riling from a fimple bale.

This little creature lives in the hollows of the Flowers of Plants, as the preceding; and feems calculated to do at leaft as much mifchief, being fully as finall; more covered with Hairs, or fhort Briftles; and to all appearance, both as to its flructure, and motions, able to drive them into the tender membranes with more force: a bigger bodied, and more robuft creature.

It is a wanderer, and lives in a manner at large in gardens: 'tis fondeft of the fweeteft Flowers: the Damask-Rose is often full of them, and the stock July-Flower, and Wall-Flower; nor does it difdain the Lupine, and the Pea.

The characters, and structure of the Chinches, are in no Species feen more distinctly than in this.

Its HEAD is of a dull yellowish brown. The Eyes are large, and of a fiery red. The Antlers are firm, elegantly jointed, a little hairy, and very sharp at the points; and they are of a pale brown. The Feelers are short, and dusky.

Its TRUNK is brown, covered with pale hairs, and variegated with a dead yellow.

The Corcelet is paler.

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Its BODY is of a tawny brown, divided by dufky rings, and covered thick with fhort, firm, whitish hairs, which it can raise at pleafure.

Its LEGS are of a dusky brown, strong jointed, and have forked, hard, horny toes, and some very stiff hairs upon them. Its WINGS are of a pale dufky yellow; the rib of them is feen beautifully jointed; and is palpably hollow.

The Scales, which make what are call'd their hairs, or feathery fubftance, are very numerous, narrow, and fharp, both at the edges, and the point; and they make a great appearance, becaufe, each being compos'd of two feathers, the creature feems, in comparison with the preceding, to have four wings upon each fide.

The creature has, when living, all the motions of the preceding kind, but ftronger; as its Body feems more mufcular: and the power it has of raifing its Briftles, as the Porcupine, must add greatly to the irritation, when it is got into a tender part.

Whether, and how far, head-achs are to be traced from thefe little creatures, is a fubject yet for more enquiry; but 'tis worth the pains. Many have this pain from the fmell of Flowers. Some have been found dead, with quantities of violets, and other Flowers, in their chamber. Phyficians have attributed thefe deaths to the powerful odour of thofe Flowers; but that they fhould be owing to thefe creatures, is much more probable.

Whether they do, or do not, ever fly far from the Plants they inhabit, I have not yet found; but in the flillnefs of the night, it would not be ftrange if they fhould: and that they hover round them I have feen: for placing a mong light, and a great convex glafs, near a pot with a growing Lupine, in a dark chamber, I have difcovered the air, all about the tops of the Plant, in a manner filled with them, moving like motes in a fun-beam.



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