

days, nay weeks together, in patient expectation, seldom changing its situation though ever so unsuccessful.

For the purposes of making this web, Nature has supplied this animal with a large quantity of glutinous matter within his body, and five dugs or teats for spinning it into thread. This substance is contained in a little bag, and at first sight resembles soft glue; but when examined more accurately, it will be found to be twisted into many coils of an agate colour, and upon breaking it, the contents may be easily drawn out into threads, from the tenacity of the substance, not from those threads being already formed. Those who have seen the machine by which wire is spun, will have an idea of the manner in which this animal forms the threads of its little net, the orifices of the five teats above mentioned, through which the thread is drawn, contracting or dilating at pleasure. The threads which we see, and which appear so fine, are, notwithstanding, composed of five joined together, and these are many times doubled when the web is in formation.

When a house-spider proposes to begin a web, it first makes choice of some commodious spot; where there is an appearance of plunder
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