

seen stretching out their legs, shaking the web, and tampering with each other by a slight touch with the extremity of their feet; then in a fright dropping hastily down their thread, and returning in a few moments to make fresh trial by feeling. When both parties are well assured of the sex they have to deal with, the approaches of their feet, in order to feel, become more frequent, confidence takes place, and amorous dalliance ensues. "We cannot," says Lyonnet, "but admire how careful they are, not to give themselves up blindly to a passion, or venture an imprudent step, which might become fatal to them." Lister and Lyonnet, two accurate observers, say, that the extremity of those arms, or claws, which the spider uses to grasp his prey with, suddenly opens, as it were, with a spring, and lets out a white body, which the male applies beneath the abdomen of the female, to fulfil the wish of nature.

The female generally lays from nine hundred to a thousand eggs in a season; they are of a bluish colour speckled with black. These eggs are large or small in proportion to the size of the animal that produces them. In some they are as large as a grain of mustard-seed;  
in