

sailing on their threads, and doubtless seizing gnats and other insects in their passage, there being often manifest signs of slaughter, legs and wings of flies, &c. on these threads, as well as in their webs below. Dr. Hulse discovered the same thing about the same time.

Dr. Lister thinks there is a fair hint of the darting of spiders in Aristotle, Hist. An. lib. ix. cap. §9. and in Pliny, lib. x. cap. 74. but with regard to their sailing, the ancients are silent, and he thinks it was first seen by him. He also observes of these sailing spiders, that they will often dart, not a single thread only, but a whole sheaf at once, consisting of many filaments, yet all of one length, all divided each from the other and all distinct until some chance either snap them off, or entangle them. But for the most part you may observe, that the longer they grow, the more they spread and appear, to a diligent observer, like the numerous rays in the tail of a blazing star. As for that which carries them away in the air, it is partly their sudden leap, partly the length and number of the threads projected, the stream of the air and wind beating more forcibly upon them, and partly the posture and management of their feet, which, at least by some sort of
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