

animal then turns its head, which lies between the two fore-legs, to the skin, and diligently searches for some pore; when found it fixes the trunk into it, and soon, with the microscope, the blood may be discovered ascending through the head, in a very rapid stream. The louse will, at that time, feed in any posture, even with its head downward, and its tail elevated. If, during this operation, the skin be drawn tight, the trunk becomes bound fast, and the animal is incapable of disengaging itself; but it more frequently suffers from its gluttony, since it gorges to such a degree that it is crushed to pieces with the slightest impresion.

The most assiduous examiners of this part of the creation have not been able to discover whether lice are divided into sexes. Swammerdam, who was indefatigable in his pursuits, after having dissected no less than forty-two, was of opinion they were hermaphrodites, having discovered an ovary in every one of which he dissected; in one of them, he says, he found ten large eggs, and forty-four smaller that were not come to their full perfection.

Scarcely any creature in the animal creation multiplies so fast as the louse. It is a popular expression, that a louse becomes a grandfather
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