

largest females, and laying its egg upon her, this is hatched into a worm, which soon devours and destroys the animal from whose body it sprung.

The *common Wood-louse* is seldom above half an inch long, and a quarter of an inch broad. The colour is of a livid black, especially when found about dung-hills, and on the ground; but those that are to be met with under tiles, and in drier places, are of the colour of the hair of an ass. It has fourteen feet, seven on each side; and they have only one joint each, which is scarcely perceivable. It has two short feelers, and the body is of an oval shape. When it is touched, it rolls itself up in a sort of ball: and the sides, near the feet, are dentated, like a saw. It is often found among rotten timber, and on decayed trees: in winter it lies hid in the crevices of walls, and all sorts of buildings. The male is easily distinguished from the female, being less, and more slender. The eggs they lay are white and shining, like seed pearls, and are very numerous; more properly speaking, however, when excluded, the young have all the appearance of an egg, yet they are alive, and, without throwing off any shell, stir and
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