

whose veracity he could rely, that a scorpion, newly caught, being placed in the midst of a circle of burning charcoal, and thus an egress prevented on every side, it run, for about a minute, round the circle, seeking for a place to escape, but finding that impossible, it stings itself on the back of the head, and by which wound the undaunted suicide instantly expires.

If these animals were not so destructive to each other, they would multiply in so great a degree as to render some countries almost uninhabitable. The male and female of this insect are very easily distinguishable; the male being smaller and less hairy. The female brings forth her young alive, and perfect in their kind. Rhedi, having procured a quantity of scorpions, selected the females from the rest, and putting them into separate glass vessels, he kept them a few days without food. In about five days one of them brought forth thirty-eight young ones, well shaped, and of a milk white colour, which changed every day more and more into a dark rusty hue. Another female, in a different vessel, brought forth twenty-seven of the same colour; and the day following the young ones seemed all fixed to the back and belly of the female. For nearly a fortnight all these continued