

forty or fifty at a birth. It is probable, that like the snail, each insect contains the two sexes, and that it impregnates, and is impregnated in the same manner. The young ones are chiefly found in the month of July, in shallow running waters, and particularly where they are tepified by the rays of the sun. The large ones are chiefly sought after; and being put into a glass vessel filled with water, they remain for months, nay for years, without taking any other subsistence. But they never breed in this confinement; and, consequently, what regards that part of their history still remains obscure.

In this part of the world they seldom grow to above four inches; but in America and the East they are found from six to seven. Their pools there abound with them in such numbers, that this circumstance alone would render it dangerous to bathe. Even in some parts of Europe they increase so as to become formidable. Sedilius, a German physician, relates, that a girl of nine years old, who was keeping sheep near the city of Bombst, in Poland, perceiving a soldier making up to her, went to hide herself in a neighbouring marsh among