

All ephemeræ, of which there are various kinds, are produced from the egg, in the form of worms; whence they change into a more perfect form, namely, that of aureliæ, which is a kind of middle state between a worm and a fly; and thence they take their last mutation, which is into a beautiful fly, of a longer or shorter duration according to its kind.

The ephemera, in its fly state, is a very beautiful winged insect, and has a strong similitude to the butterfly; but its wings differ, not being covered with the painted dust with which those of butterflies are adorned, and rendered opaque, for they are very transparent and very thin. Those insects have four wings, the uppermost of which are much the largest; when it is at rest it generally lays its wings one over the other, on the back. The body is long, being formed of six rings, that are larger at the origin than near the extremity; and from this a tail proceeds that is longer than all the rest of the fly, and consists sometimes of three threads of an equal length, and sometimes of two long and one short one.

The reptile which is to become a fly, and which is granted so long a term, when compared to its latter duration, (living sometimes
in