

in the first state two or three years, and in the last scarcely as many hours) is an inhabitant of the water, and, in many particulars bears a strong resemblance to fish; having gills, by which it breathes at the bottom, and also the tapering form of aquatic animals. These insects have six scaly legs, fixed on the corselet. Their head is triangular; the eyes are placed forwards and may be distinguished by their largeness and colour. The mouth is furnished with teeth; the body consists of six rings; that next the corselet being the largest, but growing less and less to the end: the last ring is the shortest, and from which the three threads proceed, which are as long as the whole body.

As there are several kinds of this animal, their aurelias are consequently of different colours; some yellow, others brown, and others cream-coloured. Some of them perforate cells at the bottom of the water, from which they never stir out, but feed upon the mud that composes the walls of their habitation. Others range about, rise from the bottom to the surface, swim between two waters, quit that element entirely to feed upon plants by the river side, and then return to their favorite element for safety and protection.

When