

sheers; and every morsel is swallowed as soon as cut. Some caterpillars feed upon leaves so very narrow, that they are not broader than their mouths; in this case the animal is seen to devour it from the point.

As there are various kinds of caterpillars, so the number of their feet is various; some having eight, and some sixteen. Of these feet, the six foremost are covered with a sort of shining gristle; and therefore called the shelly legs. The hindmost feet, whatever be their number, are soft and flexible, and are called membraneous. Caterpillars also, with regard to their external figure, are either smooth or hairy. The skin of the first kind is soft to the touch, or hard, like shagreen; the skin of the latter is hairy, and, as it were thorny; and generally, if handled, stings like nettles.

Caterpillars, in general, have six small black spots, placed on the circumference of the fore-ring, and a little to the side of the head. Three of these are larger than the rest, and are convex and transparent: these Rheumur takes to be the eyes of the caterpillar; yet, most of these reptiles have very little occasion for sight, and seem to be directed only by their feeling.