

egg, the colours change, and are distributed differently. The butterfly seems very well instructed by Nature in its choice of the plan or the leaf, where it shall deposit its burthen. Each egg contains but one caterpillar; and it is requisite that this little animal, when excluded, should be near its peculiar provision. All the eggs of butterflies are attached to the leaves of their favourite plant, such as the rag-weed, the cabbage, or the nettle, by a sort of size or glue; where they continue, unobserved, unless carefully sought after. The eggs are sometimes placed round the tender shoots of plants, in the form of bracelets, consisting of above two hundred in each, and generally surrounding the shoot, like a ring upon a finger. Some butterflies secure their eggs from the injuries of air, by covering them with hair, plucked from their own bodies, as birds sometimes are seen to make their nests; so that their eggs are thus kept warm, and also entirely concealed. All the moth kind lay their eggs almost as soon as they quit their aurelia state, while many butterflies do not deposit them until the approach of winter; nay some conceal themselves in the hollows of trees till April, when they deposit their eggs and die.