

Malpighi pretends to have observed six different layers in a single cone of silk: but what may be easily observed is, that it is composed externally of a kind of rough cotton-like substance, which is called floss; within, the thread is more distinct and even; and next the body of the aurelia, the apartment seems lined with a substance of the hardness of paper, but of a much stronger consistence. The thread which goes to compose the cone, is not rolled round, as we roll a bottom, but lies upon it in a very irregular manner, and winds off first from one side of the cone, and then from the other. This whole thread, if measured, will be found about 300 yards long: and so very fine, that eight or ten of them are generally rolled off into one by the manufacturers. The cone, when completed, is in form like a pigeon's egg, and more pointed at one end than the other; at the smaller end, the head of the aurelia is usually found; and this is the place that the insect, when converted into a moth, is generally seen to burst through.

It is commonly a fortnight or three weeks before the aurelia changes into a moth; but no sooner is the winged insect completely formed, than having divested itself of its aurelia