

The *Bee* is most undoubtedly entitled to our first notice, both from its evident superior instincts, and from the great benefits which mankind derive from its labour and industry. No animal in the creation has excited so much curiosity; and many individuals of various talents, have made the history of the bee their study and pleasure; it is no wonder, therefore, that some contradiction is to be met with. Rheaurur, was particularly attentive to this insect, and from his knowledge in natural history has certainly left the best account of it, and which, as being confirmed by the latter experiments of Debraw, we shall entirely follow.

There are three different kinds of bees in every hive. First, the labouring bees, which make up by far the greatest number, and are thought to be neither male nor female, but merely born for the purposes of labour, and continuing the breed, by supplying the young with provision, while yet in their helpless state. The second sort are the drones; they are of a darker colour, longer, and more thick by one third than the former; they are supposed to be the males; and there are not above a hundred of them, in a hive of seven or eight thousand bees.