

ging themselves with the spoil, and then flying to their nest with their reeking prey. They make war also on every fly, and the spider itself dreads their approaches.

Every community among bees is composed of females, or queens; drones, or males, and neutral, or working bees. Wasps have similar occupations; the two first are for propagating the species, the last for nursing, defending, and supporting the rising progeny. Among bees, however, there is seldom above one queen or two in a hive; among wasps there are above two or three hundred.

The wasp is among the first insects that are drawn into activity by the warmth of the summer. They immediately set about preparing their nest, for which, their principle care is to seek out a hole that has been begun by a field mouse, a rat, or a mole. They sometimes build upon the plain, where they are sure of the dryness of their situation, but most commonly on the side of a bank, to avoid the rain and water that would otherwise annoy them. When they have chosen a proper place, they go to work with wonderful assiduity. Their first labour is to enlarge and widen the hole, taking away the earth and carrying it off to
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