

blacker than in the ordinary kinds. But it is not their figure, but the manners of this extraordinary insect, that claim our principal regard.

From the end of May to the beginning of July, this wasp is seen most diligently employed, in contriving and fitting up a commodious apartment for its young one, which however, is not to succeed it till the ensuing year. For this purpose it bores a hole into the finest earth some inches deep, but not much wider than the diameter of its own body. This is only a gallery leading to a wider apartment. As it always chooses a gravelly soil to work in, and where the earth is almost as hard as stone itself, the digging and hollowing this apartment is an enterprise of no small labour; and for effecting which this insect is furnished with two teeth, that are strong and firm, but not sufficiently hard to penetrate the substance through which it is resolved to make its way: in order, therefore, to soften that earth which it is unable to pierce, it is furnished with a gummy liquor which it emits upon the place, and which renders it more easily separable from the rest, and the whole becoming a kind of soft