

seen nearly red. Its exterior form plainly discovers all the vestiges of the future winged insect, all the fore parts being distinctly seen; while behind, the animal is concealed.

The young may-bug continues in this state for about three months longer, and it is not till the beginning of January, that the aurelia divests itself of all its impediments, and becomes a winged insect, completely formed. Yet still the animal is far from attaining its natural strength, health, and appetite. It undergoes a kind of infant imbecility, and, unlike most other insects, which the instant they become flies, are arrived at their state of full perfection, the may-bug continues feeble and sickly. Its colour is much brighter than in the perfect animal; all its parts are soft, and its voracious nature seems, for a while to have entirely forsaken it.

About the latter end of May, these insects, after having lived for four years under ground, burst from the earth, when the first mild evening invites them abroad. They are at that time seen rising from their long imprisonment: and from living long only upon roots, and imbibing only the moisture of the earth, visiting the mildness of the summer air, choosing the sweetest vegetables for their banquet, and drinking the dew of the evening.