

The *Cantharis* is of the beetle kind, whence is derived the appellation of cantharides, well known in the shops by the name of *Spanish Flies*, and for their use in blisters. They have feelers like bristles, flexible cases to their wings, a breast pretty plain, and the sides of the belly wrinkled. Cantharides differ from each other in their size, shape, and colour. The largest in these parts are about an inch long, and as much in circumference, but others are not above three quarters of an inch. Some are of a pure azure colour, others of pure gold, and others again, have a mixture of pure gold and azure colours: but they are all very brilliant and extremely beautiful. They are of the greatest benefit to mankind, making a part in many medicines conducive to human preservation. They are chiefly natives of Spain, Italy, and Portugal; but they are to be met with also about Paris in the summer time, upon the leaves of the ash, the poplar, and the rose trees, and also among wheat, and in meadows.

Such numbers of them have sometimes been seen together in the air, that they appeared like swarms of bees, and they have so disagreeable a smell, that it may be perceived a great way off. This bad smell is a guide for those who make it