

The *Gallinsects* (which, though not belonging to the beetle tribe, we know not where better to introduce,) are bred in a sort of bodies adhering to a kind of oak in Asia, which differ with regard to their colour, size, roughness, smoothness, and shape, and which we call galls. They are not fruit, as some have imagined, but preternatural tumours, owing to the wounds given to the buds, leaves, and twigs of the tree, by a kind of insects that lay their eggs within them. This animal is furnished with an implement, by which the female penetrates into the bark of the tree, or into that spot which just begins to bud, and there sheds a drop of corrosive fluid into the cavity. Having thus formed a receptacle for her eggs, she deposits them in the place, and dies soon after.

The juice, or sap of the plant, being by this means turned back from its natural course, extravasates and flows round the egg; after which, it swells and dilates into a kind of ball, by the assistance of some bubbles of air, which get admission through the pores of the bark, and which run into the vessels with the sap.

This little ball receives its nutriment, growth, and vegetation, like the other parts of the tree, by slow degrees, and is what we call the gall-nut.