

The *Gnat* and the *Tipula*, are two insects that entirely resemble each other in their form, and yet widely differ in their habits, manners, and propagation. The chief and only difference between them is, that the tipula wants a trunk, while the gnat has a large one, which it often exerts to very mischievous purposes.

The gnat proceeds from a little worm, which is usually seen at the bottom of standing waters. After having laid the proper number of eggs on the surface of the water, it surrounds them with a kind of unctuous matter, which prevents them from sinking; but at the same time fastens them with a thread at the bottom, to prevent their floating away from the place, the warmth of which is proper for their production, to any other where the water may be too cold, or the animal's enemies too numerous. As they come to maturity, they sink deeper, and at last, when they leave the eggs as worms, they creep along at the bottom. They then make themselves lodgments of cement, which they fasten to some solid body at the very bottom of the water, unless, by accident, they meet with a piece of chalk which being of a soft and  
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