

and spends all that season either in quarries, or in caverns, which it abandons at the return of summer, and flies about in search of some commodious ford, or standing water, where it may produce its progeny. The little brood are sometimes so numerous, that the very water is tinged according to the colour of the species; green, if they be green, and of a sanguine hue, if they be red.

However similar insects of the gnat kind are in their appearance, yet they differ widely from each other in the manner in which they are brought forth, for some are produced from eggs, while some are viviparous, and come forth at once in their full and perfect form.

A gnat separated from the rest of its kind, and inclosed in a glass vessel, with air sufficient to keep it alive, will produce young, which, also, when separated from each other, will be the parents of a numerous progeny. Thus, down for five or six generations, do these extraordinary animals propagate, without any union between the male and female, but, in the manner of vegetables, the young bursting from the body of their parents, without any previous impregnation. At the sixth generation, however, their propagation stops, the