

rection, in order to seize upon such insects as are near, and to devour them with great rapacity. Worms, the spawn of fish, and even muscles themselves, with their hard resisting shells, have been found in the stomachs of these voracious animals: and what is very extraordinary, though the substance of their own bodies is almost as soft as water, yet they are no way injured by swallowing these shells, which are almost of a stony hardness. They increase in size as all other animals do. In summer, when the water of the sea is warmed by the heat of the sun, they float upon the surface, and in the dark they send forth a kind of shining light, resembling that of phosphorus.

They are often seen fastened to the rocks, and to the largest sea-shells, as if they derived their nourishment from them. If they be taken and put into spirits of wine, they will continue for many years entire; but if they be left to the influence of the air, they are in less than four and twenty hours, melted down into a limpid and offensive water.

In all this species, the same passage by which they devour their food, serves for the ejection of their fœces. It is impossible to describe them under one determinate shape; but, in general,
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