

tibles would be found in their seed, and in a greater quantity than in any other substance, because the seed is an extract of what is most analogous to the individual, and the most organic; and the animalcule we see in the seed of males are, perhaps, only these same living organic molecules, or at least the first union, or assemblage of them. But if this is so, the seed of the female must also contain similar living organic molecules, and, consequently, we ought to find moving bodies there as well as in the male: and since the living organic particles are common both to animals and vegetables, we should also find them in the seeds of plants, in the nectarium, and in the stamina, which are the most essential parts of vegetables, and which contain the organic molecules necessary for reproduction. I then seriously thought of examining the seminal liquors of both sexes, and the germs of plants, with a microscope. I thought, likewise, that the reservoirs of the female seed might possibly be the cavities of the glandular bodies, in which Valisnieri and others had uselessly sought for the egg; and at length determined to undertake a course of observations and experiments. I first communicated my ideas to Mr. Needham,