

newts.* Other amphibious animals, if they may be so called, are aquatic at one period of their life, and terrestrial at another; this is particularly exemplified in some insects, thus the grubs of water-beetles,† those of dragon-flies,‡ May-flies,§ ephemeral-flies,|| water-moths,¶ gnats or mosquitos,** and several other two-winged flies, live in the water, while the perfect insect is either amphibious as the beetle, or terrestrial as the remainder.

But no part of this terraqueous globe is more fully peopled, and with a greater variety and diversity of beautiful, or strange, or monstrous forms, than the waters, from the infinite ocean to the most insignificant pool or puddle. Every part and portion of the supposed element of water; nay, almost every drop of that fluid teems with life. Thousands of aquatic species are known, but myriads of myriads never have been seen and never will be seen by the eye of man.

Amongst those that inhabit fluids, none are more wonderful than those that are termed Infusories;†† because they are usually found in infusions of various substances, &c.; when dry, these animals lose all signs of life, but upon immersion, even after the lapse of years, they immediately awake from their torpor and begin to move briskly about.‡‡ Even the air, according to Spallanzani, seems to contain the germs or eggs of these infinitesimals of creation, so that we swallow them when we breathe, as well as when we drink.

With respect to animals more entirely *aquatic*, some in-

* Salamandræ aquaticæ.

† Dyticidæ, Hydrophilidæ, Gyrinidæ.

‡ Libellulina.

§ Trichoptera.

|| Ephemeridæ.

¶ Hydrocampa.

** Culex.

†† Infusoria, Acrita, Agastria, Amorpha, Microscopica.

‡‡ A very questionable statement. In numerous experiments upon this subject we have never succeeded in verifying the observations of Spallanzani by the resuscitation of any species after desiccation.—T. R. J.