

to construct in front of her den,* and in which large flies are taken, which, by means of her stout mandibles, she soon kills, and then sucks their juices.†

Another species,‡ which spins a similar web with diverging threads, forming so many snares, is remarkable for the pertinacity with which it clings to its tube. The most effectual way to expel it, is to put in a live ant; scarcely has it entered, when the spider, in a violent agitation, uses its utmost efforts to frighten the intruder; if the ant disregards its menaces, it rushes out precipitately, and does not stop till it is two or three inches distant, when it halts to watch the motions of the ant, which, usually, when disengaged from the web, falls to the ground; upon this taking place, the former re-enters its tube backwards. This species, though driven from its habitation by so small an insect, will fearlessly attack the largest flies, and it has been seen even to seize a very active wasp.§

The webs of the *retiary* or geometric spiders, which belong to another division of the weavers, are so well known that it is not necessary to give a very detailed account of their proceedings; but as Mr. Blackwall, in a very interesting Memoir in the *Zoological Journal*,|| has added much to our previous knowledge on this head, especially with respect to the spiral circumvolutions that distinguish the webs of the

* vii. 261.

† Walck. Araneïd. de France, 195.

‡ *Segestria perfida*.

§ Walck. Araneïd. de France, 202.

|| v. 181.

Through inadvertence, Mr. Kirby omitted to mention in the text that all the material facts of Mr. Blackwall's account in the "*Zoological Journal*," had been given in the "*Introduction to Entomology*" (Vol. i. first edition, 1815, pp. 404, 414), several years before the appearance of his paper. This correction would have been made in the original edition at the time the oversight was discovered, but so large an impression had then been printed off, and in great part distributed, that there was no opportunity of doing so effectively.—W. S.