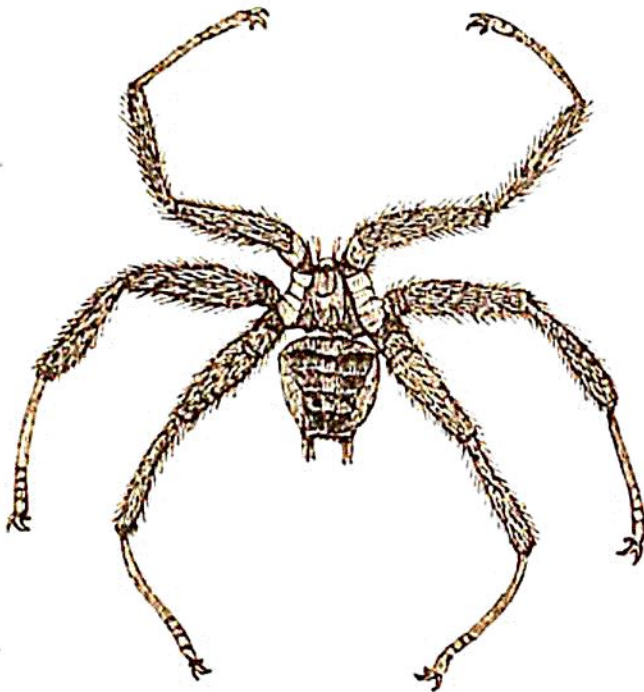


with a vesicle which is capable of contraction and dilatation, and which the animal can probably use as a sucker to fix itself; but if by any sudden jerk it is unfixd, to prevent its falling, it is gifted with the power of turning upwards, in an instant, two, four, six, or even all its legs, according to circumstances, sufficiently to support itself, and can walk in this position, as it were upon its back, as well as it does in the ordinary way with that part upwards; it may be often seen with four turned upwards while it walks upon the other four,* so that it is ready, upon any accident, instantaneously to use them, and to lay hold of the wing.

The bat is infested by another parasite, placed by Dr. Leach at the end of the *Acaridans*, and by Latreille, but not without hesitation, after the *Diptera*. I may therefore be justified in introducing the animal in question here, since, inhabiting the same subject, their proceedings will serve to illustrate each other, and to demonstrate the agency and

Fig. 95.



Nycteribia Vespertilionis (The Bat-louse.)

the concurring structure of these parasites. The one I here allude to may be called the *bat-louse*.† Latreille, who has described very minutely a species of this genus,‡ informs us that their head is implanted in a singular situation, the back of the thorax, between the middle and the anterior extremity,§ immediately behind the part to which the anterior legs are attached. The middle of

* Baker on Micr. ii. 407. t. xv. f. E. F. G.

† Nycteribia, Lat.

‡ N. Blainvillii.

§ See Montague, Linn. Trans. xi. t. iii. f. 5.