

The *Homoptera* are herbivorous, sucking the sap of trees and plants,\* and the principal tribe of them was celebrated of old, both by Grecian and Roman bards, under the names of *Tettix* and *Cicada*, for the far-resounding song of its males.

This Order contains some of the most singular monstrosities that the insect world produces; animals armed with strange appendages and horns, which in the majority, are processes of the *trunk*; but, in the *lanthorn-flies*, of the *head*: the latter have been regarded, as their name imports, as a kind of lanthorn, given to the animal to afford it light; but considerable doubt has been thrown upon the fact. The use of the arms and processes of the trunk, which are found chiefly in the male, as well as in many male Lamellicorn beetles,† has not been satisfactorily ascertained; but probably, like the horns of quadrupeds, and the spurs of male gallinaceous birds, they use them in their mutual battles.

One of these animals, as producing the *manna* of the Pharmacopœia, may be regarded as of some use to mankind. And perhaps, in general, the tribe, in their perfect state, in which they imbibe the juice of plants and trees, if not too numerous, are probably of use to trees that are over vigorous, and full of sap. In their grub state, in America, they are very injurious to timber and fruit trees, into which they introduce their eggs by a remarkable organ or ovipositor.

The proper *Hemiptera*, so called because their wing-covers at the base are of a substance resembling horn or leather, and are membranous at the tip, form the *last* suctorious Order; they are carnivorous, or more properly, *animal-suckers*;‡ for though many of them are found on particular trees and plants, it is not the juices of these that they usually imbibe, but those of the insects that frequent them; there is one, however, too well known in this country, the *bed-bug*,§

\* Phytomyza, plant-suckers.

† Dynastes, Onthophagus, Copris, &c.

‡ Zoomyza.

§ Cimex lectularius.