

than animals. These are properly the first assemblages which result from the organic molecules we have so much spoken of, and they are, perhaps, the parts which constitute the organized bodies of animals. They are found in the semen of all animals, because the semen is only the residue of the organic molecules that the animal takes in with its aliment, and which, as we have already observed, are those parts most analogous to the animal itself, and most organic ; it is those particles which compose the matter of the semen, and consequently we must not be astonished to find organized bodies therein.

To be perfectly convinced that these organized bodies are not real animals, we need only reflect on the preceding experiments. The moving bodies in the seminal liquor have been taken for animals, because they have a progressive motion, and are thought to have a tail ; but if we consider, on one hand, the nature of this progressive motion, which finishes in a very short time without ever renewing its motion ; and on the other, the nature of these tails, which are only threads which the moving bodies draw after them, we shall begin to hesitate ; for an animal goes
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