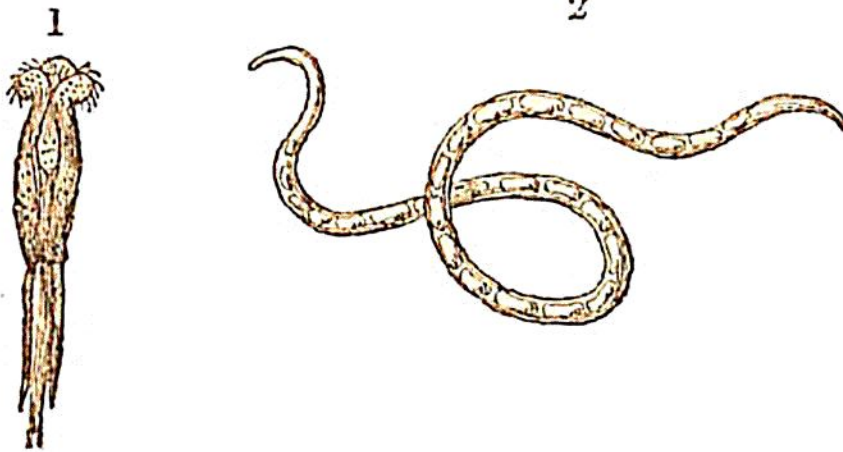


these is, in different cases, almost infinitely varied. A dormant vitality may, indeed, exist in a system of organs which have been brought into a perfectly dry state: as is proved by the examples of vegetable seeds, and also of many species of animalcules, and even of some of the more highly developed *Annelida*, or worms, which may be kept in a dry state for an indefinite length of time, and when moistened with water, resume their activity, as if restored to life. The germination of seeds under these circumstances is matter of common observation; but the revivification of animalcules is a more curious phenomenon, for it takes place more rapidly, and is more striking in its results. The *Rotifer redivivus*, or wheel animalcule,* (Fig. 1,) which was first observed by Lewenhoeck, and was afterwards rendered celebrated by the experiments made upon it by Spallanzani, can live only in water, and is commonly found in that which has remained stagnant for some time in the gutters of houses. But it may be deprived of this fluid, and reduced to perfect



dryness, so that all the functions of life shall be completely suspended, yet without the destruction of the vital principle; for this atom of dust, after remaining for years in a dry state, may be revived in a few minutes by being again supplied with water. This alternate suspension and restoration of life may be repeated, without apparent injury to the animalcule, for a great number of times. Similar phenomena are presented by the *Vibrio tritici*, (Fig. 2,) or the ani-

* *Vorticella rotatoria* of Gmelin, and *Tricircularia* of Lamarck.