

these little animals form as it were galleries at the bottom of the river for their security, for many kinds of fish break in upon their retreats and thin their numbers. For this reason fishermen endeavour to provide themselves with these insects, as the most grateful bait to ensnare those whose rapacity leads them to seek the destruction of others.

But though, in general, these flies do not live above two or three hours at farthest, there are some few kinds which live several days, and one in particular, after quitting the water has another case or skin to get rid of. These are often seen in the fields and woods distant from the water; but they are more frequently found in its vicinity. They may also be discovered sticking upon walls and trees, and frequently with their head downwards, without changing place, or having any sensible motion. They are then waiting for the moment when they shall be divested of their last incommodious covering, which sometimes does not happen for two or three days, but they never move until it is effected.