

powerful flight than if they moved separately. The junction is $\epsilon_1 \cdot \tau_{11}$ by means of a number of minute hooks on the front edge of the wing, which grasp the nervure or vein on the edge of the fore wing. These hooks can be easily seen with a microscope of even low power, and form a very interesting object. On a wing of *Urocerus albicornis* which I have just examined there are thirty-eight of these hooks, giving the edge of the wing the appearance, on a very small scale, of one of those horse-rakes with curved teeth. De Geer informs us that he counted "more than forty upon each hinder wing of a large ichneumon of the first class. Their extremity is not pointed, it is rounded and as large as all the rest. They are implanted in the nervure by which the wing is bordered," and he adds: "I do not recall that M. de Reaumur nor any other author has made mention of this property of the wings." He then proceeds to describe some remarkable ichneumons of which the places of birth were unknown, beginning with a "grand ichneumon of which the abdomen, ending in a pointed tail, is not held to the thorax by a thread; of which the thorax is black, the body half black and half yellow, and the antennæ and legs yellow." Of this insect—*Sirex gigas*—already mentioned by Reaumur, a detailed account is given, both of the male and female. It is styled peculiar to the northern countries, and one of the largest, if not the largest species found in Europe. It is to be seen flying in full day, noisily humming like the hornets and bees, and agitating continually its wings and antennæ like all ichneumons, of which this last feature is characteristic. "I do not know their grubs, nor the place where they live, but the long augur of the female is enough to show that they should lay their eggs in other bodies, like other ichneumons. *It would be curious to know all their history. Linnaeus is mistaken in placing them in the family of the Saw-flies (Tenthredines).*" Yet these insects, whether we consider the shape of their bodies, the formation of the female appendages, or the shape and habits of their grubs, appear much less removed from the Saw-flies than the ichneumons, or in other words, to occupy an intermediate place between these groups. We know that in the Saw-flies the females are provided with a complex instrument for cutting slits in which to deposit their eggs. This instrument consists of six parts, two of which form a sheath for the rest. Of these, two resemble very fine blades, notched on the edge like a saw, and strengthened when in use by the remaining two acting as backs. The saws, when not employed, are enclosed in the sheath and received in a groove on the under side of the abdomen, so as