

brown, they are not then discernable, or from their retiring to holes and crevices, I know not, but they are never to be discovered in the day. They chiefly are seen in low swampy land, and appear like innumerable transient gleams of light. In dark nights when there is much lightning without rain, they seem as if they wished either to imitate or assist the flashes; for during the intervals, they are uncommonly agile, and endeavor to throw out every ray they can collect. Notwithstanding this effulgent appearance, these insects are perfectly harmless, you may permit them to crawl upon your hand, when five or six, if they freely exhibit their glow together, will enable you to read almost the smallest print.

The **WATER BUG** is of a brown color, about the size of a pea, and in shape nearly oval; it has many legs, by means of which it passes over the surface of the water with such incredible swiftness, that it seems to slide or dart itself along.

The **HORNED BUG**, or as it is sometimes termed the **STAG BEETLE**, is of a dusky brown color nearly approaching to black, about an inch and an half long, and half an inch broad. It has two large horns which grow on each side of the head, and meet horizontally, and with these it pinches very hard; they are branched like those of a stag, from whence it receives its name. They fly about in the evening, and prove very troublesome to those who are in the fields at that time.

I must not omit that the **LOCUST** is a septennial insect, as they are only seen, a small number of stragglers excepted, every seven years, when they infest these parts and the interior colonies in large swamps, and do a great deal of mischief. The years when they thus arrive are denominated the locust years.

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