# FULGORA LANTERNARIA.

<del>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</del>

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput fronte producta, inani.

Antennæ infra oculos: articulis 2; exteriore globoso majore.

Rostrum inflexum.

Pedes grefforii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 703.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

FULGORA fronte ovali recta, alis lividis; pofticis ocellatis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 703.

LANTERNARIA.

Mer. Sur. t. 49.

Röfel. Inf. 2. gryll. t. 28, 29. Fabr. Spec. Inf. vol. 2. p. 313.

Vix aliud in Infectis videtur mirabilius luce illa phosphorea, quam certæ species emittunt. Inter infecta Europæa, Lampyrides, (quæ ad Coleoptera Linnæi referuntur) maxime hac qualitate pollent. In America est species Elateris, cui multa inest vis lucem in tenebris spargendi. Scolopendra etiam vulgaris Europæa, (quæ Scolopendra electrica Linnæi) maniseste noctu lucet,

lucet, præfertim si aliquo modo sit irritata aut compressa. Præ cæteris tamen insectis eminet species in tabula depicta, quæ communiter Lanternaria Peruviana dicitur: lucem enim adeo vividam spargit, ut viatores noctu ambulantes iter fuum commode peragere possint, ope unius vel duorum horum animalium, baculo alligatorum, gestatorumque more facis. fectum hoc ad ordinem naturalem pertinet infectorum quatuor alas habentium, quarum exteriores funt magis coriaceæ seu densæ in parte superiore quam inferiore. Hujus ordinis insecta Hemiptera Linnæi constituunt, inter quæ major pars rostrum tubulatum sub pectore gerunt, cujus ope sugendo se nutriunt. Hinc patet Fulgoram et Cicadam effe valde affines. Fulgora frequens in America calidiori reperitur, et a Domina Merian in historia fua infectorum Surinamenfium nec non ab aliis Naturæ indagatoribus descripta est. Non injucunde narrat Merian metum fibi ingentem incuffiffe flammeas corrufcationes ab infectis hifce exortas, cum adhuc facultatis quam habent lucem in tenebris emittendi ignara effet. "Cum aliquando (inquit illa) Lanternarios magna copia mihi attulissent Indi, scatulæ eofdem majori ligneæ inclusi, illos noctu lucere adhuc inscia; verum de nocte insolito strepitu expergefacta, et perterrita, e lecto profiliens, lumen accendere juffi, quis domi meæ insuetus esset strepitus ignara. Tum vero e scatula stridorem profectum illico nobis patuit; illam itaque cum animi quadam perturbatione aperuimus, fed adapertam magis adhuc paventes in terram fubito dejecimus, quod inter aperiendum inde velut ignea erumperet flamma, toties refulgens quoties novum evolaret

evolaret insectum: quo tandem animadverso, ad nos redeuntes, iterum congregavimus animalcula, splendorem in ipsis plurimum demiratæ." Ope etiam unius insecti, ut assirmat Merian commode aliquis noctu legere potest.

Non abs re sit addere quod quamvis Domina Merian figuras horum animalium pulchre et accurate depingi curaverit, tamen transformationem ipsius insecti a larva ad integrum statum describere conata, siguram, ut videtur, sictam introduxit, nempe cicadæ speciem (quæ Cicada Tibicen Linnæi) cum capite Fulgoræ.

Lux phofphorea a Fulgora dimanans, a capite concavo feu velut inflato procedit: nulla enim alia pars phofphorea est.

## THE

## GREAT LANTHORN-FLY,

OR

## FIRE-FLY.

## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head hollow, inflated, and produced forwards.

Antennæ below the eyes, confisting of 2 joints,
the exterior larger and globose.

Beak inflected.

Feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

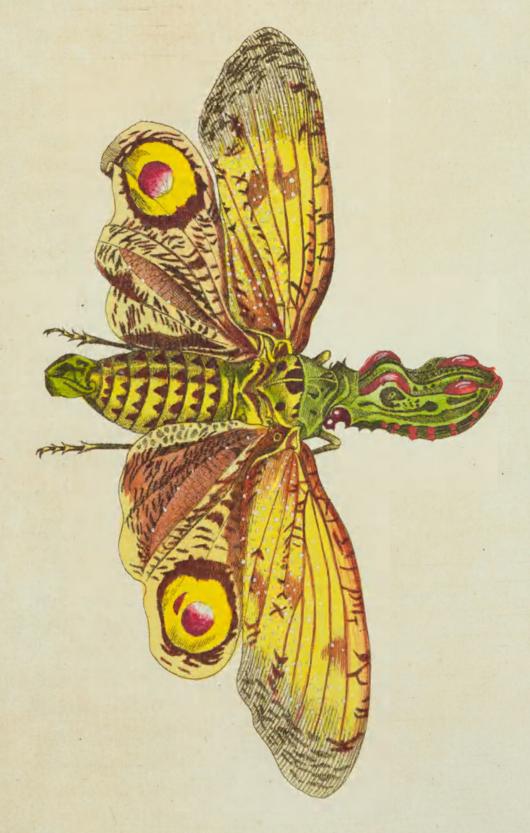
FULGORA with large oval head; variegated wings; the lower pair ocellated.

LANTERNARIA.

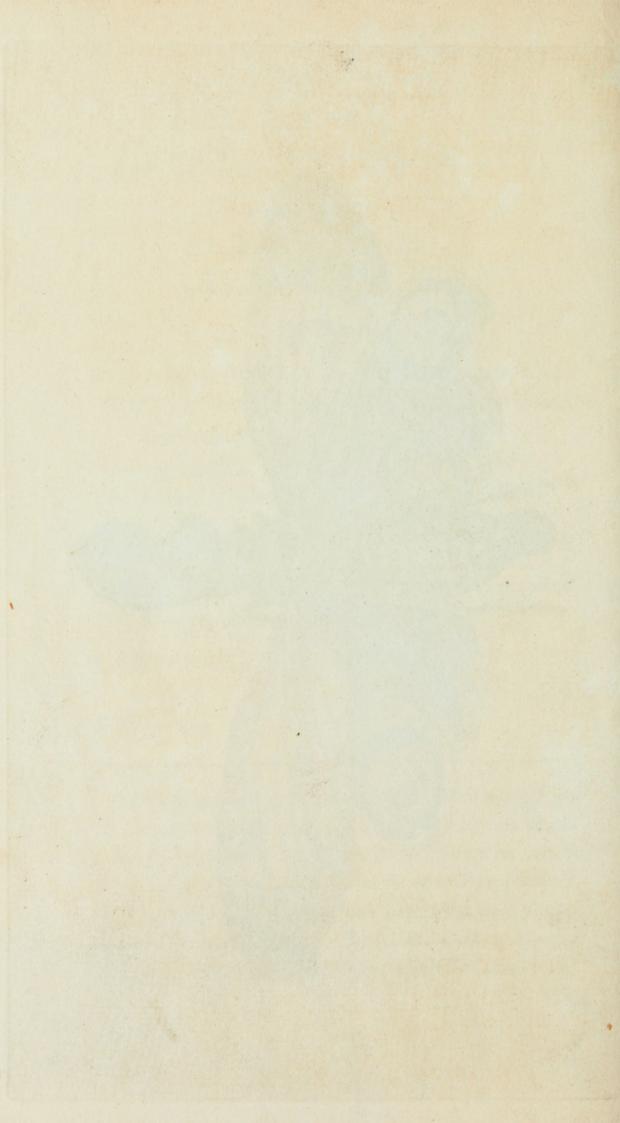
Merian. Sur. t. 49.

Röfel. vol. 2. t. 28, 29.

Few circumstances are more remarkable amongst infects than the phosphoric light with which some particular species abound. Amongst the European infects this quality is most conspicuous in the Glow-Worms, which are of the Linnæan genus Lampyris, and belong to the Coleopterous tribe. In America a large species of Elater, or Springing-Beetle is possessed of this faculty



London, Published July 19 990 by F. a. Noddor S. P. 18 Bonton Street.



in a very high degree; the common small Scolopendra of Europe, and which is well known in our own country, is pretty strongly phosphoric likewise, especially if pressed or irritated; but of all infects that which is here represented, and which is generally called the Lanthorn-Fly of Peru, possesses this lucid quality in the most eminent degree, and affords a light so vivid, that travellers walking by night are faid to be enabled to purfue their journey with fufficient certainty by one or two of these insects tied to a stick and carried in the manner of a torch. The infect belongs to the natural order of Hemipterous infects, or fuch as are furnished with four wings, of which the exterior pair on the upper part are of a stronger or more coriaceous nature than on the lower. The division in this tribe to which it strictly belongs, is that containing the rostrated infects, or fuch as have a tube or instrument of fuction lying flat, beneath the breast. It is therefore extremely nearly allied to the genus Cicada. It is common in many parts of South America, and amongst other writers is described by the celebrated Madam Merian in her history of the Surinam infects. She gives an entertaining account of the alarm into which she was thrown by the flashing which proceeded from them in the dark, before the had been apprized of their thining nature.

"The Indians once brought me (fays she) before I knew that they shone by night, a number of these Lanthorn-Flies, which I shut up in a large wooden box. In the night they made such a noise that I awoke in a fright, and ordered a light to be brought, not being able to guess from whence the noise proceeded:

as foon as we found that it came from the box, we opened it, but were alarmed still much more, and let it fall to the ground in a fright at seeing a slame of sire come out of it; and as many animals as came out, so many slames of sire appeared. When we found this to be the case, we recovered from our fright, and again collected the insects, much admiring their splendid appearance." She adds, that the light of one of these insects is so vivid that a person may see to read a newspaper by it.

It may not be improper to observe, that though Madam Merian has given good figures of the Fire-Fly, yet, by way of explaining the change from its supposed larva into the complete insect, she seems to have introduced an imaginary figure, representing the Cicada Tibicen with the head of a Fulgora. The light emitted by the Fire-Fly proceeds entirely from the hollow part, or Lantern of the head; no other part of the animal being luminous.



Shaw, George. 1790. "The Great Lanthorn-Fly or Fire-Fly, Fulgora lanternaria [Pl. 37]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 1(XII), <a href="https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310689">https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310689</a>.

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