

Extracts of two Letters from Mr. Martin Lister to the Publisher, of June 14. 1671. and July 5. 1671. concerning the kind of Insect, hatched of the English Kermes, formerly taken notice of and described by the same in Numb. 71. p. 2164; as also the Use of these Purple Insect-Husks for tinging, together with a comparison made of this English Purple-Kermes with the Scarlet-Kermes of the Shops.

THe first Letter, June 10th. I found several of the *Patellæ Kermi formes* hatched in a Box, where I had purposely put them. They prove a sort, as I guessed by the figure of the Worm, of Bees, but certainly the least, that I ever yet saw of that Tribe, as not much exceeding in their whole bulk the half of a Pismire. They are very compact and thick for the bigness; of a cole-black colour. They seem to want neither stings, nor the three balls in a triangle in their fore-head; which yet are things to be referred to the testimony of a Microscope. That which is very remarkable to the naked Eye, is a white or straw-colour large and round spot on the back: Of their four Wings the upper pair are shaded or dark-spotted, the undermost pair are clear. We may entitle them, according to our custom, *Apiculæ nigrae maculâ super humeros sub-flavescente insignita, è patellis sive favis membranaceis, veri Kermes similibus, suâque itidem purpurâ tingentibus, Cerasi aut Rosæ aliarumve arborum virgîs ad-textis, exclusæ.*

This of the Purple-Husks, and the other History of Scarlet-staining Eggs* I present you as parallels of our English store to *Kermes* and *Cocheneil*; I mean, additaments to encrease the number of agreeable tinging Materials and not Medicaments, unless wary and safe Tryal shall discover to us if they have any Medicinal qualities, as use and custom hath made us believe the Exotic have in an high degree. One of the said husks, I sent you, adhered to a Rose-tree-twig, and the other to a Cherry-tree. But a Rose-bush since hath afforded me some scores of these *patellæ*, many of which are hatched in the box I put them. It is to be further observed, 1. that those that look the blackest, yield the deepest and best purple: 2. That as the Bees come to maturity, the dye seems to be spent, and the Husks grow dry. 3. That the

*Of which latter,
See Numb. 72.
p. 2176. 2177.

the young ones make their way out at several small holes; whereas the true *Kermes*-husk seems to be pierced but in one place.

The *Second*; The discovery of our *English Kermes* hath very much pleased some of the Curious in these parts; who resolve upon Tryals of it the next season. I think, I advertised you formerly, that that deep purple or violet, with which the insides of the husks are lin'd, is much spent, if the husks be not taken whilest the Bees are in *vermiculo*; and the blackest husks are richest in colour. Yesterday in very good company we compar'd our *English Purple-kermes* with the *Scarlet-kermes* or Grains of the Shops, and found them in every point to agree save in the colour of their Juices; and particularly (finding in some parcels of the Shops many yet sticking to little twigs of the *Ilex*,) we confidently affirm, that those as well as ours are only contiguous to the *Ilex*-branches, and are not *excrescencies* of the Tree, much less *fruit* or *berries*; by which abusive names they have been too long known; But that they are the artifice and sole work of the mother-Bee in order to the more convenient hiving and nourishment of her young.

An Extract of a Letter, written to the Publisher by the Excellent Johannes Hevelius, concerning his further Observations of the New Star near the Beak of the Swan; to be compared with what was formerly published of the same Argument in Numb. 65, and Numb. 66.

This Extract we shall give you in the same Language it was written from *Dantzick* the 1st of May 1671. ft. n.

— **D**E reliquo mearum etiam partium esse duxi, Vobis quantocyus significare, me nudius-tertius, die videl. 29. April. Novam illam Stellam sub capite Cygni, ad Viam Lacteam, quam Anno proximè præterito à mense Junio & Julio, ad usque 14. Octob. conspexeram, denuo observasse, & quidem eo ipso loco, quo tunc temperis consistebat. Interim magnitudine mihi nunc aliquanto major apparet; quippe excedit illam in Rosæo Cygni, nec non eam quæ est in ancone inferioris alæ Cygni, se æque illi quæ est in Pectore Cygni æquatur, nisi quod lumine paulò obscuriori & rubicundiori modò luceat. Quà verò die primùm rursus illuxerit, affirmare adèd certò non possum. Nam