

THE HISTORY OF FOUR-FOOTED BEASTS AND SERPENTS AND INSECTS

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An extract from the above book was sent to us by Paul Richards of Sheffield Museum. It was published in 1658 by E.C. of London. Unfortunately it is rather difficult to reproduce clearly but makes entertaining reading.

Concerning the Scolopendrea and Julii.

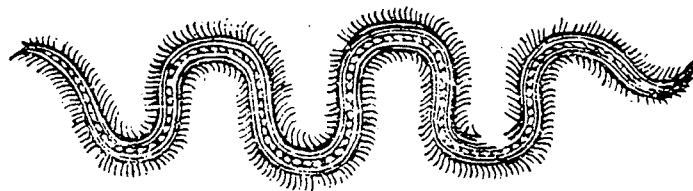
THE *Scolopendrea*, and *Julii*, and *Cheeselips* march in the last rank. They far surpass in the number of their feet, Caterpillers, Staphylini, and Whirlworms, and all kinds of Insects, whence they are called Many-feet by a peculiar name belonging to them. *Aristotle* calls this *Scolopendrea*; *Theophrastus*, *Scolopia*; *Dioscorides* (from the destruction of Serpents) calls it *Ophioctone*; *Varinus* and *Hesychius* call it *Amphydes phaganon*; others, *Sit*, and some call it *Thousand-feet*, and *Many-feet*; the vulgar Greeks call it *Scolopetra*; the Latines also call this *Scolopendra* and *Sepa*, and *dirty-bog*, and *hundred-feet*, *thousand-feet*, *many-feet*; which three last names also they give to *Julii*. In Hebrew they call it *Ghazam*; in Arabick, *Alcampria*, and *Alamula*, as *Silvaricus* testifies; *Albertus* calls it *Almuga*, *Alcapua*; in the Polish Tongue, *Stonogrobak*, *Gastanka*; in the Hungarian Tongue, *Zones*, *Hiragopap*, *Matzkaia*; in High Dutch, *Ein nassel*; in Italian, *Centopede Vermi*; in French, *Chenille*, *Millepede*; in English, *Scolopender* and *Manyfoot*. In my judgement it differs as far from *Julus*, as a sea Lobster from a *Crevis*. They are indeed like to one another, but these are alwaies less, nor are they so mischievous when they bite, nor so venomous.

The Name.

The great earth Scolopender is as long and thick as you have it pictured; the colour of the body is black from brown, and shining. To every incision a yellow little foot is joyned, that is, in the severall sides sixty. It goeth forward and backward with equal ease. For it goes with the head forward, and with the tail forward; and therefore *Nicander* and *Rhodoginus* call it two heads. It hath the part between the head and belly not single, but manifold; whence it comes to pass that this kinde can live though it be cut in funder. This Scolopender being provoked bites so sharply; that *Ludovicus Armarus* (who gave me one brought out of *Africa*) could scarce endure him to bite his hand, though he had a good glove on, and a double linnen cloth; for he strook his forked mouth deep into the cloth, and hung a long time, and would hardly be shaken off.



Another was brought from new *Hispaniola*, which had on the midit of the back a flame coloured line to adorn it; and a red side, and colour of the hair set it forth. It had feet like to hairs, and lifting it self upon them all, it ran very swiftly: this is worthy of the greatest admiration, that Nature having given to this creature a small head, yet it hath given memory to it, and the rule of reason, not in pints and pitchers, but in the largest measure. For seeing it hath feet innumerable as *Rowers*, and many of them are from the Rudder the head at a great distance, yet every one knows his own office, and as the head directs, so they all frame their motion.



Another was brought to us from St. *Augustines* Promontory out of *India*, something greater in body and feet: which had 70 black and blew incisions, and twice as many light red feet.



I doubt not but more sorts of Scolopenders may be found, of almost all colours except green; yet *Ardoynus* makes mention of one that was green. Each of them hath an inbred property, to go to the roots of Iword grafs (as *Theophrastus* thinks). But *Robertus Constantinus* deserves to be whipt, and so doth *Stephanus* that followes him, and *Ardoynus* himself, who invent that a Scolopender is first a Serpent, then hath eight feet, then a horn in its tail, and lastly, it is a slow goer. *Albertus*, *Rhodoginus*, *Avicenna*, are to be blamed also, who affirm rashly, that no Insect hath above twenty feet, and they put the Scolopender in that number. Yet *Nicander* calls him two headed in these verses:

*The Scolopender hath each end a head;
And stings with both, untill that men be dead:
With feet like ores he wasts himself along, &c.*

Yet by the favour of so great an Author, I might say that he hath but one head; though he can as easily move forward or backward with his tail conducting him, as with his head. And this I believe deceived *Nicander* and others. But he saith farther, that he bites at both ends; which is as false as the former; for he bites only with his forked mouth, and hurts not with his tail, otherwaies than by a venomous touch, and by putting forth poysonous blood.

Oppianus holds it to be more fierce than the sea Scolopender, and so it is indeed: and I greatly wonder that *Grevinus Parisiensis*, upon no authority, in his Book of Venomes should oppose this.

All Histories testify that this creature is dangerous and venomous, and so much the more as it is more hairy. We read in *Ælian* that the *Rhytienses* were driven out of their City by the multitudes of these creatures: and *Theophrastus* affirms the like concerning the *Obrietes* in *Pliny*: therefore though we have ranked the Scolopenders in the last place, yet in executing divine vengeance, they may sometimes challenge the first place. Countrey people do judge of fair weather by the frequent coming forth of the Scolopenders; and when they hide themselves they foresheew rain, as *Marcellus Virgilius* hath noted on *Dioscorides*. They have these uses in *Physick*. If they be boyled in Oyl, they take off hair with a little pricking, *Gal. 11. Simpl.* and *Aetius lib. 7.* They are enemies to Wiglice, that are most stinking creatures, and kill them with their breath, or eat them alive. Again, Wiglice being either taken inwardly, or anointed outwardly, are a remedy for their bitings, by a reciprocal, and as it were emulating antipathy, as is manifest from *Pliny*, and *Ardoynus lib. 6.* concerning poysons. When the land Scolopender hath bitten, the place is all black and blew, putrefies and swells, and looks like to the dregs of red Wine, and is ulcerated with the first bite. *Ægineta*. *Aetius* adds that the pain is intolerable. *Dioscorides* saith the whole body pricks. All hold that this bite is incurable, and will admit almost no remedy. It hath (saith *Anazarbens*) symptomes, prevention, and cure, the same as for the stinging of a Viper, *lib. 6. c. 23.* Against this disease some things are taken inwardly, some things are applied outwardly.

Amongst inward Remedies, *Ægineta* commends Trifoly that smells like Bitumen, drank with Wine. *Dioscor.* approves much of wild Rue, the root of Dragons bruised, the root, seeds, and flowers of Asphodill, the branches and leaves of Serpol, Calamint, the roots of Fennel and Birthwort, given with pure Wine, or Wine and Oyl. *Attuarius* gives Nix with Wine. *Pliny* commends Salt with Vinegar, or rather the froth of Salt as being the better. Also he highly esteems of Horse-mints, or wilde Penniroyal taken in Wine. *Aetius* bids give Wormwood and Mints with Wine.

As for outward Remedies, first scarifie the place hurt, make deep incision, and draw out the venome by Cupping-glasses; then put in the juice of the lesser Centory, boyle with a third part of sweet Wine to the consistence of Honey, and binde a leather over it for eight or fourteen daies. Then foment the place with a sponge dipt in hot Wine, and this is a certain cure for the bite of a Scolopender. *Anonymus*. *Pliny* also prescribed divers remedies for it, as the dregs of Vinegar, washing the place with Vinegar, the flower of Miller with liquid pitch, Butter with Honey, the green Figs of the wilde fig-tree with Verches and Wine, the Urine of the patient hurt and of a Werther, burnt Salt anointed with Vinegar and Honey, wilde Penniroyal with Salt, Salt with Tar and Honey, wilde Cummin with Oyl; and all kindes of Maiden-hairs. *Dioscorides* commends Garlick, with Fig-leaves and Cummin, and with Vetch Meal and Wine, also the leaves of Calamint, and burnt Barley with Vinegar; also he commends a Fomentation made

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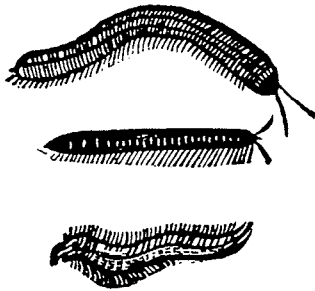
of fowre Pickle: *Archigenes* bids foment the part with Allum-water: *Egineta* saith, with much hot Oyl. *Nonius* prescribes hot Oyl of Rue.

Some commend exceedingly both outwardly and inwardly such things as are given against the biting of a Shrew. *Aristotle* writes that the Scolopenders are deluded and drawn forth with the fume of liquid Storax, and are easily taken whilest they stick to the clamminess of it;

Of the Juli.

THE kinds of the Juli follow next: which the Greeks call *Ίούλις*; and that as I think not from their down, but from the tails of Walnuts and small Nuts, whose hair being fastned in a hard substance, represents these Cats-tails, whence they had the names of Juli. I know the Latines call them *Juli*, but I should call them *Galleys*. For *Lycophon* called the Galleys of *Paris* that were swift with many oars, *Ίουλιέες*. *Nicander* applies the same similitude to Scolopenders; whence it may easily appear, that Juli and Scolopenders are like one to the other. The Spaniards call these *Centopeas*: the Italians, *Centogambi*. It may be the English after me will call them Gally-worms: *Numenius* also called earth-worms black Juli, as *Arbenamus* witnesseth *lib. 7.*

Black Juli that feed on earth are called the earths bowels; yet unless they have many feet, they cannot be numbered or named amongst the Juli. Juli are as I said, short Scolopenders, that for the number of their feet, exceed not only Hoglice, and all Caterpillars, but also all other Insects. Some Juli are smooth, others hairy. I saw a smooth one in a Cabbage Lettice



as thick as a small river bulrush, and of the same magnitude you see it here: it had a very black head, the back was of a golden colour, the belly was silver coloured from gray, the incisions and hairy feet were so many that they easily overcame both the eyes and memory. The second was all black, except a white line, which was drawn down the back, straight from head to the tail. The third was a decayed yellow, his head and feet were red, the sailyards, and the hairs growing near the tail, were black and blew. If you paint the fourth with a body blackish red, and his feet and sailyards lighter, you have rightly set him out: we caught some of these coming forth of moss growing on the barks of trees, and others lurking under trees and rotten logs. I could meet but with two hairy ones. The first was white of this form and figure, it crept on a wall, the short hairs that grew on



it were black. The second had a black and blewish belly, and a back spotted with an uncomely yellow. The mouth was red, a black eye, the hairs were hoary. It lies hid in old decayed trees between the bark and the wood; and also amongst stones that are overgrown with mosse and thick downy hair. All these Gally-worms, if they be touched roll themselves up, and become round. I cannot tell whether they are venomous or not, but if they be, O happy *Pennius*, who divers times with his bare hand provoked and killed them, and yet was never bitten nor hurt by them. *George Agricola* tells us of a Gally-worm of a brazen colour (but he calls it a Scolopender) his words are these: A little Scolopender is bred and lives in the logs of trees, or in pots driven into the earth, (whence it hath its name) remove these or stir them, and it will come forth; otherwise it alwaies lurks there. It hath no feathers, but hath many feet; when it creeps it lifts up the middle of a body like a vault: if you touch it with a little wand or any other thing, it rolls it self together. It is of a brazen colour, a slender body, not broad, but three fingers long, or at most four.

Also it is found in another form, almost in the very same places, with a slender round body, the thickness almost of a thread, of an allayed bright bay colour, the feet are so many and so small, that it is impossible to number them. It is four fingers broad in length; it remains under rotten trees and plants. *Avicenna* makes the Scolopender (which is also a Gally-worm) to have 44 feet only, and to be the palm of ones hand long; so small and slender, that it can creep into the ears. *Lib. 4. Fen. 6. tract. 5. cap. 19.* This creature, saith he, hath no venome, or but very weak, and causeth no great pain: which is presently taken away with the flowers of Asphodils, or with Salt mingled with Vinegar. Our Gally-worms (saith *Gesner*) if they be in the houses, they will come together to St. Thomas Sugar, that is the most pure, (as Mice do to the best Cheefe). Our Countreyman *Bruerus* (a skilful and laborious searcher of Nature) reports that he hath seen here in *England* Scolopenders, and kept them, that shined in the night, and in mossy and broomy grounds shined with their whole body: who was no lier, and I willingly give credit to him; and so much the rather, because *Oviedus* saith he observed the same in new *Hispaniola* in the fields, and *Cordus* did the like in *Germany* in moist cellars. It seems strange that *Plutarch* relates, *Lib. 8. Sympos. problem. 9.* that a stripling at *Athens* cast up a small ragged creature, together with a great deal of seed: it had many feet, and walked exceeding fast.

The Gally-worm found in cellars, burnt to powder, doth wonderfully provoke Urine. *Me-The Use, rula.* The blood of Gally-worms, with the moisture pressed out of Hoglice, is a divine and excellent remedy to take away the white spots of the eyes. *Arnold. Brev. 1. cap. 18.*

And thus much for Gally-worms, concerning whose Natures, I passe over the opinions of *Hesichius*, *Aristotle*, *Nicander*, *Lycophon*, *Ardoynus*, because they are various, but not true.