

said to be *amphisbæna*, but do move forward only by the head, which is fairly distinguishable from the tail by a notable blackness. 4 That the three, I took out of the body of one Beetle, were all of a dark hair-colour with whitish bellies, somewhat thicker than hoggs bristles; but I took out of the body of another beetle one that was much thicker than the rest; much lighter coloured; and by measure just five Inches and a half long; whereas all the rest did not exceed three inches three quarters.

*An Extract of a Letter, written March 5. 1672 by Dr. Thomas Cornelio, a Neapolitan Philosopher and Physician, to John Dodginton Esquire, his Majesties Resident at Venice; concerning some Observations made of persons pretending to be stung by Tarantula's: English'd out of the Italian.*

S I R

**N**OW the time approaches, that I may send you some *Tarantulas*. Mean while I shall not omit to impart unto you, what was related to me, a few daies since, by a judicious and unprejudicate person, which is; That being in the Country of *Otranto* (where those Insects are in great numbers,) there was a man, who thinking himself stung by a *Tarantula*, shew'd in his neck a small speck, about which in a very short time there arose some pimples full of a serous humour, and that, in a few hours after, that poor man was sorely afflicted with very violent symptoms, as *Syncope's*, very great agitations, giddines of the head, and vomit; but that without any inclination at all to dance, and without all desire of having any musical instruments, he miserably dyed within two daies.

The same person affirm'd to me, that all those that think themselves bitten by *Tarantula's*, (except such, as for some ends fain themselves to be so,) are for the most part young wanton girles, (whom the Italian writer calls *Dolci di sale*,) who by some particular indisposition falling into this melancholly madness, perswade themselves according to the vulgar prejudice, to have been stung by a *Tarantula*. And I remember to have observed in *Calabria* some women, who teised on by some such accidents were counted to be possess'd with the Divil; it being the common belief in that Province, that the greatest part of the evils, which afflict man-kind, proceeds from evil Spirits.

This brings to my mind a terrible evil, which often enough

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is observ'd in *Calabria*, and is call'd in their language *Coccio maligno*. It ariseth on the surface of the body, in the form of a small speck, of the bignes of a lupin. It causeth some pain, and if it grow not soon red thereupon, it in a very short time certainly kills. 'Tis the common opinion of those people, that such a distemper befalls those only, that have eaten flesh of Animals dead of themselves: which opinion I can from experience affirm to be false. So it frequently falls out, that of many strang effects, we daily meet with, the true cause not being known, such an one is assigned, which is grounded upon some vulgar prejudice. And of this kind I esteem to be the vulgar belief of the cause of that distemper, which appears in those that think themselves stung by *Tarantulas*.

But why should not we rather think, that that distemper is caused by an inward disposition, like that vvhich in some places of *Germany* is vvont to produce that evil, vvhich they call *Chorea Sti Viti*, St. Vite's dance. But of this I hope I shall soon be able to write my thoughts more fully, vvhich vvill, I think, be sufficient to refute that fable of the *Tarantula*.

*An Account of the Apouensian Baths near Padua; communicated by the foremention'd Inquisitive Gentleman, Mr. Dodington, in a Letter written to the Publisher from Venice March 18. 1672.*

S I R,

IN the Observations and History of Nature possibly this may not be unvvorthy the notice. Five miles from *Padua* are the vvaters, call'd *Aponensia*, from a tovvn called *Aponum*, famous in antiquity, and among others frequently mention'd by *Livy*. I vvill not doubt, but that Sr. I. F. and D B. two worthy members of the *R. Society* and who lived long in *Padova*, have inform'd themselves most exactly of what ever I shall be able to say on this Subject; however I do not scruple to give you a short relation of it.

The waters are actually very hot. Secondly, they are stinking. Thirdly, they yield a great deal of very fine salt; of which the natives serve themselves in their ordinary occasions. This salt is the thing, I think most considerable there. It is gather'd in this manner: The Natives, after Sun set, stirr peices of wood in the water, and presently the Salt sticks to them, and comes off in small flakes, exceeding white, and very salt. This never looses its savour. The people there, with the same water use to wash the