

Haec habui, quae, Invitationis tuae finem respiciens ad Te, Vir Ornatissime, scriberem. Unà etiam cum Epistolâ hâc, integræ Ephemerides, (quibus singulorum Dierum Observaciones meae, qua ratione Invitatio tua fert, consignantur) Tibi tradentur, tamquam specimen; ex quo, si Deus dederit, ut post aliquot annos quaedam alia in formam hanc colligam, intelligere facile queas, me tuae Methodo in scribendis observationibus adhaesisse. Si quid frugis in Observationibus hisce aliquando reperietur, Tibi, tuisque de optimis Artibus meritis tribuendum erit. Vale.

Patavij, Kal. Jun.

CIO DCCC XXXI.

V. *An Account of a Book entituled, J. P. Breynij M. D. &c. Historia Naturalis Cocci Radicum Tinctorij, quod Polonicum vulgò audit. 4<sup>to</sup> Gedani, 1731. Cum Figuris coloribus nativis pictis. By Richard-Middleton Massey, M. D. F. R. S. and Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians.*

THE Author (after having briefly accounted for the two Kinds of the *Cocci Tinctorij* now in Use, viz. that of *Pliny* collected from the *Ilex*, and the *American Coccus*, or *Cochinil*) proceeds to give us the Natural History of the *Coccus Polonicus*, which

which he calls *Radicum*, because it is chiefly found adhering to the *Roots* of the *Polygonum Cocciferum*, \* *Kosmaczek Polonis C B.* This he takes to be the *Polygonum Germanicum, incanum, flore majore perenni Raij.* Of which he has given a Print with the *Cocci*, as they stick to the *Roots*.

The *Coccus* he says, is found sometimes single, sometimes more, even forty adhering to one Plant, of different Sizes, from a Poppy-seed to that of a white Pepper-corn. It is roundish, smooth, and of a Purple Violet Colour, and in a thin Cuticle incloses a Blood-red *Succus*: One Half or more of it is covered with a rough, dark, brown Crust, by which it adheres to the *Roots*.

The Countrymen gather it about *Midsummer*, and dry it with a slow Fire in Earthen Platters.

Several of these *Cocci* he exposed to the Sun in open Glasses, and found that by the 24th of *July* every one, according to its Size, had excluded a small Worm with six Feet. That Part which seemed to be the Head, had two short carnosè *Antennæ*; for he could not perceive with Glasses any thing like either Mouth or Eyes. On the Back Length-ways, were two *Sulci*, which were more or less visible, according to the different Motions of the *Animalculum*. Its Feet seemed armed with Claws, and the first Pair stronger and darker than the rest. The whole Worm was of an obsolete Purple Colour, and had several Bristles of a brown Grey.

\* *Kosmaczek Pilosella. Herbario Polon.*

These, after ten or fourteen Days, lay in a State of Rest, and soon became covered with an exceeding white fine lanuginose Substance; in which Condition they continued five or eight Days longer, and then laid their Eggs, fifty, one hundred or more a-piece; which to the naked Eye appeared but like so many red oblongish Points, but with Glasses looked like Ants Eggs, almost transparent, with a diluted Blood-red Content.

These Eggs being again exposed in the Sun about *Bartholomew-Tide*, were hatch'd a Month after, when some *Vermiculi* were excluded, which in the Microscope appear'd to be Hexapods of a purplish Hue; with two *Antennæ* at their Head, and two greyish Bristles at their Tails, scarce visible except upon black Paper.

He supposes these last excluded *Vermiculi*, after some Wanderings, at last fix themselves to the Roots, and some of the lowest contiguous Branches of the *Polygonum*, where being deprived of local Motion and Sense, by some Way or other they imbibe that *Succus* from the Plant, and at last become the *Cocci* so called, or Vesicles full of that Blood-red *Succus* so useful in Dying.