

nels, like two rows of posts, always preserved the parallelism of the two sides of the column, as much so as it is in the two edges of a roll of black ribbon, to which they may, not inaptly, be compared. All the large black ants were not thus stationary, but many were in the lines with the smaller ones, and probably occasionally relieved the others; but I never saw a small one thus standing sentinel. The small ants were in length rather more than the fifth of an inch, and the larger one about four-tenths of an inch, and were in point of numbers compared with the former, probably, as about one to one hundred. When these ants have bitten, if pulled from the part, they generally leave their forceps behind them, which makes two small punctures that are easily perceived. Like the other sort described, these (or there would be no living for them,) always quit the habitations of men; and from three weeks after our landing, to the time of our quitting the island, we were not in the least annoyed by them. They trouble not the Portuguese inhabitants of Bissao; and I am told by the natives that they never enter their towns. These ants destroyed in one night, soon after our arrival, a whole litter of pigs, and more than a dozen fowls. The two kinds of ants above noticed have not the least similarity in their conformation, and not less dissimilar is their mode of living; the one subsisting chiefly on wood, the other on animal food; these latter, like the vultures, are of use in devouring dead carcasses.

3dly. A smaller black ant, whose nests are sometimes on the ground, and sometimes on the branches of trees. These are not troublesome, except when disturbed; their bite is not very severe.

4thly, A common sized red ant, these are found only on, and about trees; I never saw any of their nests; their bite is pretty sharp. When we killed a bullock, it generally remained all

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