

made of another species of South American Formicidæ, but doubted by some "in-door" naturalist or compiler.

The seasons in West Africa are divided into "wet" and "dry," each making up about half of the year. During the former, violent and continued rains often occur, which, either directly, or from the rapid rise of the river, cause an overflow of the low grounds. As the Drivers delight in rather low situations, usually little above the base of hills, they are often exposed to inundations. In such emergency, they leave their domicils, throw themselves into a rounded mass, deposit their eggs, &c. in the centre, and thus float on the water, till a place of safety is reached, or the flood subsides. Even in situations beyond this overflow, so copious and incessant are the rains at times, that they must be deluged for days in their nests. Under such circumstances, one would suppose that they would perish. Many undoubtedly do, for all communities of animal existences are exposed to casualties. But in this case, as throughout the kingdom of nature, God has most graciously established a system of compensation, illustrating at once the minuteness of his Providence and his benevolence. As he has endowed this insect with a high degree of vitality, so has he given to it great tenacity of life and powers of endurance.

Individuals submerged in water have lived more than 24 hours; and when decapitated, 48 hours! The head separated from the body will bite for several hours after, apparently with as much force as when in all its natural connections.

They are decidedly aggressive in their habits. The dread of them rests upon every living thing. It is a statement literally true, that "they drive everything before them, capable of motion." Their entrance into dwellings is known by the simultaneous movement of rats, mice, lizards, roaches, &c. &c. with which they may be infested. Even man, styled "*Lord of creation*," bows to this, a more numerous foe; for let the Drivers enter one door and he quickly escapes at the other.

So intense is the bite by accumulation, that the largest animal, if confined, is overpowered and destroyed. The dread with which all animals are inspired, of this diminutive creature, may be inferred from the statement universally made by the natives on the coast, respecting their largest serpent, the *Python natalensis*. After disabling its prey by the fearful process of constriction, the Python, it is said, makes a wide sweep in the vicinity, to see if the Drivers are near; should they not be, he returns to the work of engorgement, but if near, he abandons his prey to their more numerous jaws.

Donkeys, on coming to them, crossing the road, will suddenly turn, and throw their rider to one side, and if urged onward will give a leap far over the line.

Dogs, rather than run the risk of a leap, will compass their track by going a long distance round.

The smaller snakes, lizards, &c., are disabled very soon after the attack. This easy victory seems to be accomplished by an early destruction of vision. The mandibles of the Drivers being long and sharp-pointed, penetrate with great ease the membranes of the eye. Domestic animals being generally confined at night, are often destroyed by them.

When they enter a dwelling their movements are characterized with a good degree of order. If they discover prey, they congregate upon it in vast numbers, when they may be easily destroyed by boiling water.

Their ascent into beds may be prevented by putting the feet of the bedsteads into vessels of vinegar, or some other uncongenial fluid. This will be successful