

Ashton John 1890. *Curious creatures in Zoology [Créatures curieuses en Zoologie]*. Cassel Publishing, New York, London.

Ashton John 2000. *Curious creatures in Zoology: The ant [Créatures curieuses en Zoologie : La fourmi]*. Document électronique, electronic reprint, Arment Biological Press. Pline, Pliny, fourmi aurifère, gold ant, Inde, India, temple d'Hercule, temple of Hercules.

The ant

No one would credit the industrious Ant, whose ways we are told to consider, and gather wisdom therefrom, was avaricious and lustful after gold; but it seems it was even so, at least, in Pliny's time; but then they were abnormally large: -« the horns of an Indian Ant, suspended in the temple of Hercules at Erythrae (Ritri) have been looked upon as quite miraculous for their size. This ant excavates gold from holes, in a country to the north of India, the inhabitants of which are known as the Dardae. It has the colour of a cat, and is in size as large as an Egyptian wolf. This gold, which it extracts in winter, is taken by the Indians during the heats of summer, while the Ants are compelled, by the excessive warmth, to hide themselves in their holes. Still, however, on being aroused by catching the scent of the Indians, they sally forth, and frequently tear them to pieces, though provided with the swiftest Camels for the purpose of flight; so great is their fleetness, combined with their ferocity, and their passion for gold.