

I endeavour to make it appear, that Amber was, in its Origin, a vegetable Resin; the Product, perhaps, of the Fir or Pine Kind; by considering the Appearance of the Substance itself: And that though it has some distinguishing Properties, yet it has many others, which are common to an indurated Resin. Its Aspect, its Texture, its Form, are Arguments for this. The Bodies which it is known to inclose, are urged as Proofs, that this Inclusion could not happen in the Sea, nor in the Earth, but upon its Surface; as the included Objects are mostly Animals, mostly Volatiles too; very few Reptiles, except such as are often found aloft in Trees, as Ants, Spiders, &c. and scarcely ever any Aquatics, are found in Amber. And, I believe, I may challenge all the Cabinets of the Curious to produce one Instance of a marine Body having been found naturally inclosed in Amber. That there are several fictitious ones, is granted.

That this Resin with the Trees which afforded it were buried in the Earth by the Deluge, or by some such violent Renversement, and there constitute the proper Veins of Amber, I likewise endeavour to make appear, from the same Evidence of Facts. The Substance of which these Veins consist, hath several genuine Characteristics of Wood still remaining. The Texture of this Substance is often an undoubted Proof of what it hath been; being fibrous, and, when dried, swims in Water, and burns like other Wood. The Amber is not disposed in these Veins in one continued *Stratum*; but Lumps of it are irregularly disseminated through the Whole of what I call the woody Mass.

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