
V. *A Description of some Insects which appear to exemplify
Mr. William S. MacLeay's Doctrine of Affinity and Analogy.
By the Rev. William Kirby, M.A. F.R.S. and L.S.*

Read December 17, 1822.

No objects are more interesting to the scientific naturalist than those which assume the external appearance of one tribe, while their more essential characters and their habits indicate that they belong to another. These objects a *prima facie* survey would often induce us to refer to a very different set of beings from that to which a more intimate acquaintance with their peculiar diagnostics and economy would lead us. And we shall find, the further we extend our researches, the traces of that plan of CREATIVE WISDOM by which a *symbolical relationship*, if I may so call it, connects such of his creatures, as in other respects are placed in opposition to each other, as well as a *natural affinity* those that really approximate. Writers in every department of natural history, when they have been endeavouring to thread the labyrinth of affinities, have been extremely puzzled by this remarkable circumstance. They were aware that those species which connect two proximate tribes, generally partake of the characters of both; but they were not sufficiently aware of this resemblance between objects that are connected by little or no affinity. Hence it has happened, not unfrequently, that objects have been referred not to the tribe to which they are really *related*, but to that which they resemble in some of their less essential characters.

Mr.