

**A GENERAL  
SYSTEM OF NATURE,**

THROUGH THE

**THREE GRAND KINGDOMS**

OF

**ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, AND MINERALS,  
SYSTEMATICALLY DIVIDED**

INTO THEIR SEVERAL

**CLASSES, ORDERS, GENERA, SPECIES, AND VARIETIES,**

WITH THEIR

**HABITATIONS, MANNERS, ECONOMY, STRUCTURE,  
AND PECULIARITIES.**

**BY SIR CHARLES LINNÉ:**

Translated from GMELIN, FABRICIUS, WILLDENOW, &c.

TOGETHER WITH

Various Modern Arrangements and Corrections, derived from the  
Transactions of the Linnean and other Societies, as well as from the Classical  
Works of Shaw, Thornton, Abbot, Donovan, Sowerby, Latham, Dillwyn,  
Lewin, Martyn, Andrews, Lambert, &c. &c.

WITH A LIFE OF LINNÉ,

Appropriate Copper-plates, and a Dictionary explanatory of the Terms which  
occur in the several Departments of Natural History,

BY WILLIAM TURTON, M. D.

Fellow of the Linnean Society, Author of the Medical Glossary, &c. &c.

=====

IN SEVEN VOLUMES.

=====

**Animal Kingdom.—VOL. I.**

**MAMMALIA. BIRDS. AMPHIBIA. FISHES.**

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LACKINGTON, ALLEN, AND CO.  
TEMPLE OF THE MUSES, FINSBURY-SQUARE.

1806.

## ORDER II. BRUTA,

*Fore-teeth 0 in either jaw.*

5. **BRADYPUS.** *Fore-teeth 0: grinders 6 in each jaw, obliquely truncate, cylindrical, 2 anterior longer, far distant: body covered with hair.*

*Trydactylus.* Feet 4-toed; tail short.

*Sloth.*

Inhabits the warmer parts of *South America*: feeds on fresh leaves, lives in trees, never drinks, is fearful of rain; climbs easily, walks painfully and slowly, hardly travelling 50 yards in a day; turns its head as if astonished; its note an ascending hexachord; its cry is miserable, its tears are pitiful.

*Body* very hairy, grey; *face* naked; *throat* yellow; *ears* 0; *tail* subovate; *fore-feet* longer than the hind, distant; *toes* close; *claws* compressed, narrow, hooked, strong; *teats* 2, pectoral; *mouth* never without foam: *size* of a smallish dog.

*Didactylus.* Fore-feet 2-toed; tail 0.

*Two-toed Sloth.*

Inhabits *South America* and *India*: feeds on fruits and roots; smell weak; sight better by night than day; not so slow in motion as the last.

*Hair* rusty-brown, waved; *head* rounded; *ears* large; *claws* on the fore-feet 2, on the hind-feet 3; *teats* 2, pectoral: in this and the last species there is only one common excretory canal as in birds: *length* 11 inches.

*Pentadactylus.* Five toes on all the feet; tail short.

*Five-toed Sloth.*

A heavy clumsy though not ferocious animal, of a mixed resemblance between the bear, sloth and hog; when irritated gives a short harsh cry; catches what is thrown to it with its paws and carries it to its mouth; eats bread, fruit, eggs, but not roots; moves quick.

*Tufts* 2 in each jaw included by the lips; *body* arched on the back, covered with long black harsh hair shedding on each side from the ridge of the back; *face* at the top large, broad, lower part narrow, projecting; *neck* short, thick; *ears* short, erect, hairy, hid in fur; *mouth* wide, upper lips receiving the lower within the edges; *nostrils* covered by a lengthened flap; *tongue* long, flat, broadish, truncate; *upper jaw* with a moveable cartilage at the fore-part; *legs* distant, short, strong, fore-ones a little arched outwards; *feet* small; *soles* naked; *claws* long, narrow, hooked, white, close set, about 3 inches long, not retractile; *length* about 4½ feet, height about 3, circumference nearly 5.

6. MYR-

**6. MYRMECOPHAGA.** *Teeth* 0: *tongue* round, extensile: *mouth* narrowed into a snout: *body* covered with hair.

*Didelphys*. Toes on the fore-feet 2, on the hind feet 4; *tail* bushy.

*Least ant-eater.*

Inhabits *South America*: walks slowly on the heels; feeds only in the night; emits no cry.

*Body* yellow or bright-reddish; *tongue* spiral; *snout* shorter than in the rest; *ears* small, hid in fur; *hair* long, soft, silky; *tail* tapering, naked at the end and underneath, prehensile; size of a squirrel.

*Tridactyla*. Toes on the fore-feet 3, on the hind 4; *tail* bushy.

Inhabits *India*: travels slowly; climbs trees; defends itself by its broad tail against flies.

*Teats* 2, pectoral, 6, abdominal; *stripe* on the sides black; *back* with a longitudinal mane; *tail* compressed, black underneath, above tipped with white.

*Jubata*. Toes on the fore-feet 4, on the hind-feet 5; *tail* bushy.

*Great Ant-eater.*

Inhabits *South America, Congo*: covers itself with the tail while it sleeps, and against rain.

*Stripe* on the sides and breast black; *tail* very hairy, hairs long, flattened; *hind-legs* blackish, *fore-legs* whitish, with a black spot about the middle; *tongue* thin, above 2 feet long, and when not protruded folded up in the mouth; *hair* mixed black and white: *length* about 4 feet, of the tail about 2.

2. Face shorter; legs shorter.

*Colour* mixed deep-brown and dirty-white; *hair* about the ears long, on the sides longer, bristly: *length* nearly 4 feet.

*Tetradactyla*. Toes on the fore-feet 4, hind-feet 5; *tail* naked.

Inhabits *South America*: wanders only in the night, sleeps by day; when angry seizes a stick, and fights sitting on its hind-legs.

*Tail* bald at the extremity, by which it is able to suspend itself from the branches of trees; *stripe* on the breast and side black.

*Pentadactyla*. Toes on the fore-feet 5; *tail* long, flat, entirely covered with hair.

*Striped Ant-eater.*

*Head* thick; upper jaw and snout very long; *eyes* small; *ears* small, rounded, fringed above with black hairs; *hair* long; *back, head, legs* tawny, *belly* dirty-white; *tail* covered with long

long tawny-yellow hair, annulate with blackish: *length* 13 inches, *height* 10.

*Capensis.* Toes on the fore-feet 4; snout long; ears large, pendulous; tail shorter than the body, tapering to the tip.

*Cape Ant-eater.*

Inhabits the *Cape of Good Hope*: larger than the other species, nearly the size of a hog, and weighing almost a hundred pounds; burrows in the ground, sleeps by day, prowls by night.

*Aculeata.* Body covered with long sharp spines; tail very short.

*Porcupine Ant-eater.*

Inhabits *New Holland*: size of a rat.

Spines on the back and sides resembling those of the porcupine, white with black tips, and a circle of dull orange between the colours; head and under-parts deep-brown; tail short, naked, a little flattened at the tip, covered at the root with upright spines; eyes small, black, irids blueish; legs short, thick, 5-toed; toes broad, round; claws black, on the hind-feet only 4, the first long, sharp, curved, second shorter, 2 others shorter still.

## 7. PLATYPUS. Mouth shaped like the bill of a duck: feet palmate.

*Anatinus.* P.

*Duck-billed Platypus:*

This singular and newly-discovered animal, as I have never seen it, I can only describe in the words of Dr. SHAW, in whose *Naturalist's Miscellany*, pl. 385 and 386, it is excellently figured.

"Of all the mammalia yet known it seems the most extraordinary in its conformation; exhibiting the perfect resemblance of the beak of a Duck engrafted on the head of a quadruped. So accurate is the similitude that, at first view, it naturally excites the idea of some deceptive preparation by artificial means: the very epidermis, proportion, serratures, manner of opening, and other particulars of the beak of a shoveller, or other broad-billed species of duck, presenting themselves to the view: nor is it without the most minute and rigid examination that we can persuade ourselves of its being the real beak or snout of a quadruped.

"The body is depressed, and has some resemblance to that of an Otter in miniature: it is covered with a very thick, soft, and beaver-like fur, and is of a moderately dark brown above, and of a subferruginous white beneath. The head is flattish, and rather

rather small than large: the *mouth* or snout, as before observed, so exactly resembles that of some broad-billed species of duck that it might be mistaken for such: round the base is a flat, circular membrane, somewhat deeper or wider below than above; viz. below near the fifth of an inch, and above about an eighth. The *tail* is flat, furry like the body, rather short, and obtuse, with an almost bifid termination: it is broader at the base, and gradually lessens to the tip, and is about three inches in length: its colour is similar to that of the body. The *length* of the whole animal from the tip of the beak to that of the tail is thirteen inches: of the beak an inch and half. The *legs* are very short, terminating in a broad web, which on the fore-feet extends to a considerable distance beyond the claws; but on the hind-feet reaches no farther than the roots of the claws. On the *fore-feet* are five claws, strait, strong, and sharp-pointed: the two exterior ones somewhat shorter than the three middle ones. On the *hind-feet* are six claws, longer and more inclining to a curved form than those of the fore-feet: the exterior toe and claw are considerably shorter than the four middle ones: the interior or sixth is seated much higher up than the rest, and resembles a strong, sharp spur. All the legs are hairy above: the fore-feet are naked both above and below; but the hind-feet are hairy above, and naked below. The internal edges of the under *mandible*, (which is narrower than the upper) are serrated or channelled with numerous striæ, as in a duck's bill. The *nostrils* are small and round, and are situated about a quarter of an inch from the tip of the bill, and are about the eighth of an inch distant from each other. There is no appearance of *teeth*: the palate is removed, but seems to have resembled that of a duck: the *tongue* also is wanting in the specimen. The *ears* or auditory foramina are placed about half an inch beyond the eyes: they appear like a pair of oval holes of the eighth of an inch in diameter; there being no external ear. On the upper part of the head, on each side, a little beyond the beak, are situated two smallish, oval, white spots; in the lower part of each of which are imbedded the eyes, or at least the parts allotted to the animal for some kind of vision; for from the thickness of the fur and the smallness of the organs they seem to have been but obscurely calculated for distinct vision, and are probably like those of Moles, and some other animals of that tribe; or perhaps even subcutaneous; the whole apparent diameter of the cavity in which they were placed not exceeding the tenth of an inch.

“When we consider the general form of this animal, and particularly its bill and webbed feet, we shall readily perceive that it must be a resident in watery situations; that it has the habits of digging or burrowing in the banks of rivers, or under ground;

ground; and that its food consists of aquatic plants and animals. This is all that can at present be reasonably guessed a future observations, made in its native regions, will, it hoped, afford us more ample information, and will make fully acquainted with the natural history of an animal which differs so widely from all other quadrupeds, and which verifies in a most striking manner the observation of Buffon; viz. that whatever was possible for Nature to produce has actually been produced.

"On a subject so extraordinary as the present, a degree of scepticism is not only pardonable, but laudable; and I ought perhaps to acknowledge that I almost doubt the testimony of my own eyes with respect to the structure of this animal's beak; yet must confess that I can perceive no appearance of any deceptive preparation; and the edges of the rictus, the insertion, &c. when tried by the test of maceration in water so as to render every part completely moveable seem perfectly natural; nor can the most accurate examination of experienced anatomists discover any deception in this particular.

"The Platypus is a native of *Australasia* or *New Holland*, and is at present in the possession of Mr. Dossou, so much distinguished by his exquisite manner of preparing specimens of vegetable anatomy."

## 8. MANIS. *Teeth* 0: *tongue* round, extensible: *mouth* narrowed into a snout *body* covered above with moveable bony scales.

*Pentadactyla.* Feet 5-toed.

*Short-tailed Manis.*

Inhabits *Guinea, China, India*: when irritated erects its scales; when attacked rolls up; except in the covering very much resembles the ant-eaters.

*Scales* channelled at the base, imbricate, rounded, sharp at edges; *ears* rounded, naked; *under parts* naked; *tail* covered wholly with scales: *length* 6—8 feet including tail.

*Tetradactyla.* Feet 4-toed.

*Long-tailed Manis.*

Inhabits *India*: much less.

*Scales* much channelled, each armed with 3 points; *under parts* covered with hair; *tail* three times as long as body.

## 9. DASYPS.

9. **DASYPUS.** *Tusks* 0: *grinders* short, cylindrical, in each jaw 7—8: *body* covered with a bony shell intersected by zones.

These feed on roots, melons, potatoes; flesh, fish, insects and worms; rest by day, wander by night; burrow in the ground; gentle; defend themselves by rolling into a globular form; chiefly inhabit *South America*; and the females bring forth every month; flesh eatable.

- Tridactylus.* Bands 3, moveable; toes five. *Three-banded Armadillo.*  
Inhabits *Brazil*: feeds on fruits and poultry.  
Middle-band narrow; scales knobbed on the surface; eyes small; ears short, rounded; head oblong, covered by a helmet of one piece; 2 middle claws of the fore-feet large: length 1 foot:

- Quadricinctus.* Bands 4. *Four-banded Armadillo.*  
Habitation unknown; a very uncertain species.

- Sexcinctus.* Bands 6; feet 5-toed: *Six-banded Armadillo.*  
Inhabits *South America*: eatable, feeds on fruits and roots, infests plantations.  
Body reddish-yellow; teeth 18 in each jaw; neck covered with a shield; penis spiral, glands compressed; thickened at the edge:

- Septemcinctus.* Bands 7; toes on the fore-feet 4, on the hind-feet 5: *Seven-banded Armadillo.*  
Inhabits *India*, and *South America*.  
Shield on the shoulder notched on the fore-part; skin between the bands brown:

- Octocinctus.* Bands 8; shields 2. *Eight-banded Armadillo.*  
Inhabits *Brazil*; flesh delicious.  
Shields sprinkled with prominent white knobs; bands marked triangularly; back iron-grey; sides whitish-grey spotted with iron-grey; belly whitish.

- Neocinctus.* Bands 9; fore-feet 4-toed, hind-feet 5-toed. *Nine-banded Armadillo.*  
Inhabits *South America*: flesh delicate.  
Crust on the shoulders, rump and head marked with six-sided figures; divisions of the bands with transverse wedge-like marks.

*Duodecim-* Bands 12; toes 5.  
*cinctus.* Inhabits South America.

*Twelve-banded Armadillo.*

Covering of the fore-part of the back consists of a series of seven small shields, the hind part of nine; bands apparently running into one, and was by Linné called *D. Unicinctus*.

*Maximus.* Bands 12; legs and tail divided into lozenge-shaped scales.

*Largest Armadillo.*

Inhabits South America: feeds in the night; eatable.

*18-cinctus.* Bands 18; shield on the rump 6.

*18-banded Armadillo.*

Inhabits South America.

Shield only 1, on the shoulder; scales of the armour of the head round, of the neck square; breast, belly, ears, naked; body about 10 inches long, head 3, tail 5.

*Longicaudus.* Bands 9; tail long, jointed.

Inhabits America: about the size of a cat.

## 10. RHINOCEROS. *Horn solid, perennial, conic, placed on the nose, not adhering to the bone.*

*Unicornis.* Horn 1.

*One-horned Rhinoceros.*

Inhabits marshy places between the Tropics; lives on thorns and spinous plants; may be tamed, and becomes mild, but when enraged will overturn trees with its violence; fight weak, hearing and smelling very acute.

In size, but not in sagacity, resembling the elephant, except that its feet are shorter; in habits and voice, the hog; urines and cohabits backwards; skin hard, resisting swords, arrows and even musket-balls, naked except on the tail and ears; folds transverse, regular; flesh tough, spongy; tongue soft; horn hairy at the base, acute, fibrous, frequently 3 feet long; fore-teeth when old 6, when young straggling, remote, solitary; hoofs 3; tail tapering, shorter than the feet.

*Bicornis.* Horns 2.

*Two-horned Rhinoceros.*

Inhabits Africa: and the bones are by PALLAS, said to be often found buried in the north of Russia.

Flesh resembles that of a hog; viscera those of the horse; gall-bladder 0; fore-teeth 0; the second horn shorter, placed over the first.

A variety is rarely found with 3 horns, the third being an excrescence on one of the others.

## 11. SUKOTYRO.



11. SUKOTYRO. *Horn* on each side near the eyes.

*Indicus.* Mane upright, short, narrow, reaching from the top of the head to the rump.

Inhabits *Java*: thick, clumsy, feeds on herbs.

*Snout* like a hog, truncate; *ears* long, rough; *tail* thick, bushy; *eyes* placed upright in the head; *hoofs* 4; *skin* smooth, without plaits.

12. ELEPHAS. *Fore-teeth* 0 in either jaw: *tusks*, upper elongate, lower 0: *proboscis* very long, prehensile; *body* nakedish.

*Maximus. E.*

*Elephant.*

Inhabits the *Torrid Zone*, in swampy places and by the sides of rivers; feeds on the leaves and branches of young trees, particularly plantains, eating even the wood; devours grain voraciously; gregarious, docile, long-lived, sagacious, though the brain is small; *proboscis* long, extensile, contractile, furnished at the end with a hook, serving the purpose of a hand, with which it takes its food and drink, and which being cut off it is destroyed; is afraid of mice, lest when asleep they should creep into the trachea; urines backwards, copulates like other quadrupeds; the female is gravid a year; the young suck the mother with the lips; carries houses on its back, its guider sitting upon the neck; moves quickly, swims dexterously; is armed for war by the Indians, and was formerly by the Romans, with scythes,

The largest of quadrupeds, sometimes weighing 4500 pounds; *body* cinereous, seldom reddish or white, thinly set with hairs; *proboscis* flat beneath, tip truncate; *eyes* small; *tusks*, which are only in the upper jaw, far extended beyond the mouth, resemble horns, marked with curled fibres; these are the ivory of the shops, and sometimes weigh 150 pounds each; *ears* large, pendulous, dentate; *skin* thick, callous, impenetrable by musket-balls, and yet sensible of the sting of flies; *teats* 2 near the breast; *knees* flexible; *neck* short; *hoofs* 5 on each fore-foot, 4 on each hind-foot.

F 2

13. TRICHE-

13. **TRICHECHUS.** *Fore-teeth*, (in the adult) 0 in either jaw: *tusks* upper solitary: *grinders* in both jaws consisting of a furrowed bone: *body* oblong: *lips* double: *hind-feet* stretched back, forming a fin.

All inhabit the sea, feed on sea-weeds, coralines and shell-fish, not on flesh.

*Rosmarus.* *Tusks* in the upper jaw remote, projecting. *Morse.*  
Inhabit near the *Arctic Pole*, at the mouths of rivers; roar like bulls, snore when asleep, gregarious, defend themselves vigorously, if wounded will attempt to sink boats by striking their tusks into the sides.

*Fore-teeth* in the young 2, small, in the upper jaw; *tusks* very remote, acuminate, sometimes weighing 30 pounds; *ivory* with interwoven fibres not easily turning yellow, the central part brownish; *grinders* 4, small, in each jaw both sides, acute, with an excavation behind the tip; *whiskers* like straws, pellucid; *nostrils* lunar; *neck* thick; *feet* 5-toed, claws short; *skin* made into traces; oil plentiful, much valued: length 48 feet,

*Darong.* *Tusks* in the upper jaw projecting, approximate.

*Indian Walrus,*

Inhabits the sea between the *Cape of Good Hope*, and *Philippine* islands; feeds on sea weeds.

*Head* more acuminate and narrow; *nostrils* larger and placed wider: *fore-teeth* 0; *tusks* in the upper jaw 0; *grinders* broader, distant, in the upper jaw 4, lower 3; *teats* 2, pectoral: *flesh* resembles beef.

*Manatus.* *Tusks* 0.

1. *Australis.* *Fore-feet* 4-toed, clawed.

Inhabits the *African* and *American* seas, near the mouths of rivers, seldom going far from the shore.

*Skin* black, cinereous; *grinders* 9 in each jaw on both sides, squared, covered with a glassy enamel; *vertebrae* 50.

2. *Borealis.* *Hair*, toes, claws c.

Inhabits the north-west coast of *America*, frequently entering the mouths of rivers; is tamed by the natives, fond of music; is the Dolphin of the ancients; eats voraciously, lives in families

## MAMMALIA. BRUTA. Trichechus.

37

families of one male and one female with their offspring; feeds on sea-weeds, with its back above the water, on which sea-fowl perch to pick off the sea-lice; roars like a bull.

Skin when wet brown, when dry black; instead of *grinders* a rugged bone in each jaw; *vertebrae* 60; *sight* weak, *hearing* acute; *fore-feet* palmate like those of the sea-turtle, instead of *hind-feet* an horizontal tail; *ears* 0; *nostrils* distant, regular; upper *lip* set with rigid incurved bristles; *teats* 2, *pectoral*: length 23 feet; weight about 8000 pounds; *flesh* lapid.

### 3. *Siren*. Ears erect, sharp-pointed.

Inhabits the north-west coast of *America*, swims round ships with antic gestures.

*Head* resembling a dog; *eyes* large; *lips* whiskered: *body* thick, round, tapering downwards; *tail* divided into 2 unequal lobes; length about 5 feet.

ORDER