

Of this animal there are several varieties; such as the water and the land toad, which probably differ only in the ground-colour of their skin. In the first, it inclines to ash colour, with brown spots; in the other, the colour is brown, approaching to black. The water-toad is not so large as the other; but both equally breed in that element. The size of the toad with us is generally from two to four inches long; but in the fenny countries of Europe, they are seen much larger, and not less than a common crab. But this is nothing to what they are found in some of the tropical climates, where travellers often, for the first time, mistake a toad for a tortoise. Their usual size is from six to seven inches; but there are some still larger, and as broad as a plate. Of these, some are beautifully streaked and coloured; some studded over, as with pearls; others bristled with horns or spines; some have the head distinct from the body, while others have it so sunk in, that the animal appears without a head. With us, the opinion of its *raining* toads and frogs, has long been justly exploded; but it still is entertained in the tropical countries, and that not only by the savage natives, but the more refined settlers, who are weak enough to add the prejudices of other nations to their own.