

horns, and the ewes have none ; nevertheless, I have seen in our flocks rams without horns and ewes with them ; and sheep not only with two but four horns. The sheep of the North, and of Iceland, (*fig.* 140) have sometimes even eight. In hot countries the rams have only two very short horns, and often are deficient of them as well as the ewes. In some the horns are smooth and round, in others they are furrowed and flat, and the points instead of turning back, are often bent and come forward, &c. This character, therefore, is not more constant than the first, and consequently, not sufficient to constitute a different species ; the largeness of the tail has also been considered, by some naturalists, as an essential distinction, and from the difference in the size of that, the wool, and the horns, they have made seven or eight different species of these animals, which we have reduced to one ; and this reduction appears to be so well founded, that we are not afraid of its being contradicted by future observation.

It appeared necessary in composing the History of Wild Animals, to consider them one by one, and independently of genus ; but on the contrary, in domestic animals, it appears requisite even to extend the genera ; because, in Nature, there only exists individuals, and
succession