

skin only, are shaken with it;(1) the oxen of India as swift in flight as horses;(2) those no larger than a goat;(3) sheep with a large tail;(4) and those of India as large as asses.(5)

Although the ancient accounts of the aurochs, the rein-deer, and the elk, are mixed with fable, they still prove that they had some knowledge of them; but that the knowledge, founded on the accounts of ignorant persons, had not been submitted to a critical judgment.(6) These animals dwell in the country assigned to them by the ancients, and have only disappeared in countries too much cultivated for their habits of life; the aurochs and the elks still live in the forests of Lithuania, which formerly joined the forest of Hercynia. There are aurochs in the north of Greece, as in the times of Pausanias. The rein-deer inhabits the north, in the cold regions which it has always inhabited; there it changes colour, not according to its will, but to the seasons. It was by a series of inexcusable mistakes that it was thought they would be found in the Pyrenees in the fourteenth century.(7) The white bear was seen in Egypt during the reign of the Ptolemies.(8)

(1) Ælian, ii. 20.

(2) Id. xv. 24.

(3) Id. *ibid.*

(4) Id. Anim. iii. 5.

(5) Id. iv. 32.

(6) See in my Researches, vol. iv. chapters on deer and oxen.

(7) Buffon having read in Du Fouilloux, a passage quoted from Gaston-Phebus, Count de Foix, in which that prince describes the rein-deer hunt, imagined that that animal existed in the Pyrenees at that period; and the printed editions of Gaston are so faulty, that it was with difficulty ascertained what the author meant to say; but having reverted to the original manuscript, which is preserved in the king's library, I have found that it was in Xueden and Nourwergue (Sweden and Norway,) that he says, he saw and partook of the chase of rein-deer.

(8) Athenée, lib. v.