

mules produce in warm countries, and we have some examples of their producing even in our temperate climates. But we do not know whether this generation ever proceeded from the union of a male with a female mule, or whether the production were not effected by the junction of a male with a mare, or a male-ass with a mule. There are two kinds of males, the first is the great mule, which proceeds from the junction of a male-ass with a mare, and the small mule, proceeding from the horse and the she-ass, which we shall call *bardeau*, to distinguish it from the other. The ancients were acquainted with both, and distinguished them by two different names; they called the first *mulus*, and the second *hinnus*. They assert that the *mulus* produced with the mare, an animal called *ginnus**, or *hinnus*; that the she-mule conceived very readily, but seldom brought the foetus to perfection: and that, though they have had frequent examples of mules bringing forth, yet such productions were looked on as prodigies. But what is a prodigy of nature, except an event which happens

* The word *ginnus* is used by Aristotle in two senses: the first to denote in general an imperfect animal, an abortion, a dwarf animal, proceeding sometimes from the horse and the ass; and the second to signify the particular produce of the mule and the mare.