

though it does not change its sex every year, as Pliny alleges\*. Thus, also, the carnivorous bull is perhaps nothing else than a two-horned rhinoceros erroneously described. M. de Weltheim affirms with probability, that the auriferous ants of Herodotus are *corsacs*.

One of the most famous amongst these fabulous animals of the ancients, is the *unicorn*. Even to our own time people have obstinately persisted in searching for it, or, at least, in seeking arguments to prove its existence. Three several animals are frequently mentioned by the ancients as having only one horn in the middle of the forehead. The *African oryx*, having cloven hoofs, the hair placed in the contrary direction to that of other animals †, equal in size to the bull ‡, or even the

---

account of the prodigious power of the muscles of its neck, and the frequent use which it makes of them. When the hyena has laid hold of any thing, it is easier to drag it along by it than to wrest it from its jaws; and it is this circumstance which has caused the Arabs to consider it as the emblem of invincible obstinacy.

\* It does not in reality change its sex, but it has an orifice in the perineum, which might make it be supposed to be hermaphrodite.

† Arist. Anim. ii. 1. iii. 1. Plin. xl. 46.

‡ Herod. iv. 192.