

# H I S T O R Y O F Q U A D R U P E D S.

Six cutting teeth, and two canine, in each jaw.

Five toes before; five behind.

In walking rests on the hind feet, as far as the heel.

XX. BEAR.

Urfus. *Plinii lib.* viii. c. 36.

Аѳтѳ. *Oppian Cyneg.* iii. 139.

Urfus. *Gefner quad.* 941. *Agricola, An.*

*Subter.* 486. *Raii syn. quad.* 171.

Niedzwiedz. *Rzaczynski Polon.* 225.

Bâr. *Klein quad.* 82. *Schwenckfelt The-*

*riotroph.* 131. *Ridinger Wild. Thiere.*

31. *Arch. Zool.* i. No. 20.

Urfus niger, cauda concolore. *Briffon*

*quad.* 187.

Urius, cauda abrupta. *Lin. syst.* 69.

*Biorn. Faun. suec. No.* 19.

L'Ours. *De Buffon*, viii. 248. *tab.* xxxi.

xxxii. *Schreber*, cxxxix. cxi. *LEV.*

*Mus.*

208. BROWN.

**B.** with a long head: small eyes: short ears, rounded at the top: strong, thick, and clumsy limbs: very short tail: large feet: body covered with very long and shaggy hair, various in its color: the largest of a rusty brown: some from the confines of *Russia*, black, mixed with white hairs, called by the *Germans*, *silver bar*; and some (but rarely) are found in *Tartary* of a pure white.

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B

Inhabits

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Inhabits the north parts of *Europe* and *Asia*, the *Alps* of *Switzerland*, and *Dauphiné*; *Arabia*\*, *Japan*†, and *Ceylon*‡; and the northern parts of *North America*; and extends to the *Andes* of *Peru*: Doctor *Shaw* informs us, it is also found in *Barbary*. They must have been very plentiful, for *Pliny* says that *Domitius Ænobarbus* produced at one of the shews a hundred *Numidian* bears, and as many *Æthiopian* hunters §. The brown bears are sometimes carnivorous, and will destroy cattle, and eat carrion; but their general food is roots, fruits, and vegetables: will rob the fields of pease; and when they are ripe, pluck great quantities up; beat the pease out of the husks on some hard place, eat them, and carry off the straw: they will also, during winter, break into the farmer's yard, and make great havock among his stock of oats: are particularly fond of honey.

They live on berries, fruits, and pulse, of all kinds; and feed much on the black mulberry: are remarkably fond of potatoes, which they very readily dig up with their great paws: make great havock in the fields of *maiz*; and are great lovers of milk and honey. They feed much on herrings, which they catch in the season when those fish come in shoals up the creeks; which gives their flesh a disagreeable taste; and the same effect is observed when they eat the bitter berries of the *Tupelo*.

Bears strike with their fore foot like a cat; seldom or never use their mouths in fighting; but seizing the assailant with their paws, and pressing him against their breast, almost instantly squeeze him to death.

The females, after conception, retire into the most secret

\* *Forsk.*, iv. † *Kämpfer, Hist. Japan*, i. 126. ‡ *Knox, Hist. Ceylon*. 20.  
§ *Lib. viii. c. 36.*

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places; least, when they bring forth, the males should devour the young: it is affirmed for fact, that out of the several hundred bears that are killed in *America*, during winter, (which is their breeding season) that scarcely a female is found among \* them; so impenetrable is their retreat during their pregnancy: they bring two, rarely three, young at a time: the cubs are deformed, but not a shapeless mass, to be licked into shape, as the antients pretended †. The cubs even of the brown bears are of a jetty blackness, and often have round their necks a circle of white. The flesh of a bear in autumn, when they are most excessively fat, by feeding on acorns, and other mast, is most delicate food; and that of the cubs still finer; but the paws of the old bears are reckoned the most exquisite morsel: the fat white, and very sweet: the oil excellent for strains, and old pains.

The latter end of autumn, after they have fattened themselves to the greatest degree, the bears withdraw to their dens, where they continue for a great number of days in total inactivity, and abstinence from food, having no other nourishment than what they get by sucking their feet, where the fat lodges in great abundance. In *Lapland* they pass the long night in dens lined warmly with a vast bed of moss, in which they roll themselves, secure from the cold of the severe season ‡. Their retreats are either in cliffs of rocks; in the deepest recesses of the thickest woods; or in the hollows of antient trees, which they ascend and descend with surprizing agility: as they lay in no winter provisions, they

\* Out of 500 bears that were killed in one winter, in two counties of *Virginia*, only two females were found, and those not pregnant, *Lawson*, 117.

† *Hi sunt candida informisque caro, paulo muribus major, sine oculis, sine pilo; unguis tantum prominent: hanc lambendo paulatim figurant.* Plinii lib. viii. c. 36.

‡ *Fl. Lap.* 313. The moss is a variety of the *Polytrichum Commune*.

are in a certain space of time forced from their retreats by hunger; and come out extremely lean: multitudes are killed annually in *America*, for the sake of their flesh, or skins, which last makes a considerable article of commerce.

209. BLACK.

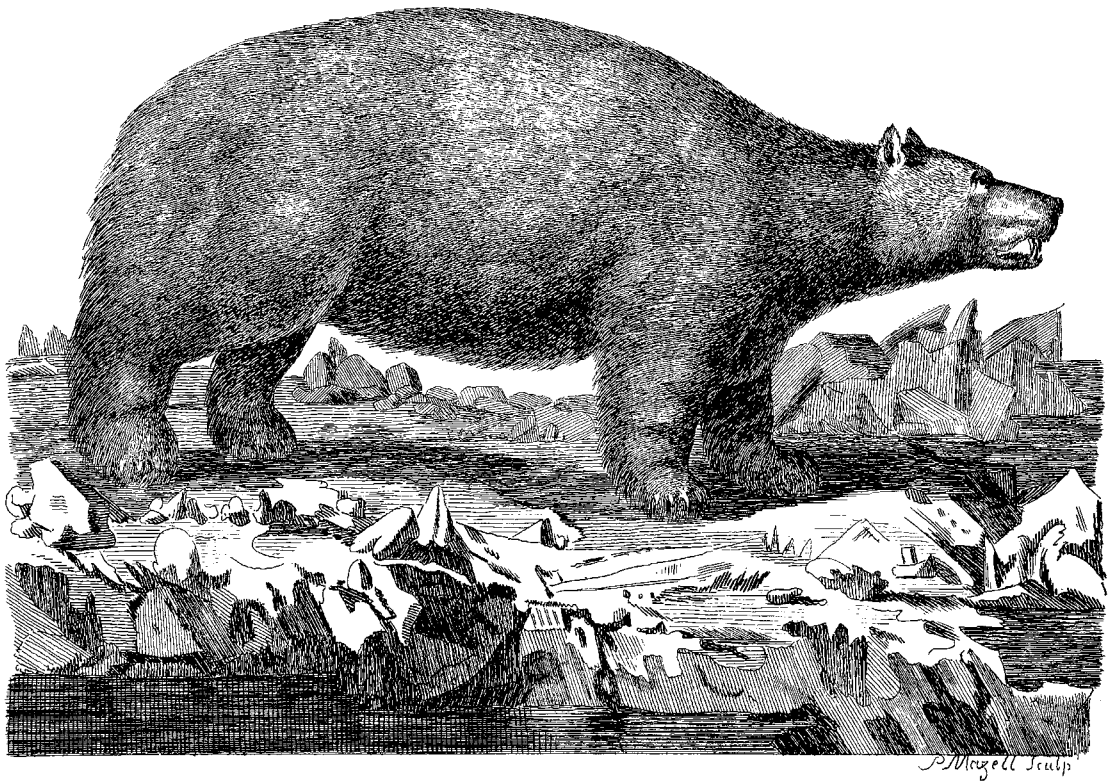
*Art. Zool.* 2d. Ed. ii. N<sup>o</sup> 19.

**B.** with a long pointed nose, and narrow forehead: the cheeks and throat of a yellowish brown color: hair over the whole body and limbs of a glossy black, smoother and shorter than that of the *European* kind.

They are usually smaller than those of the old world: yet Mr. *Bartram* gives an instance of an old he-bear killed in *Florida*, which was seven feet long, and, as he guessed, weighed four hundred pounds.

These animals are found in all parts of *North America*, from *Hudson's Bay* to the southern extremity; but in *Louisiana* and the southern parts they appear only in the winter, migrating from the north in search of food. They spread across the northern part of the *American* continent to the *Asiatic* isles. They are found in the *Kurilski* islands, which intervene between *Kamtshatka* and *Japan*, *Jeso*, *Masima*, which lies north of *Japan*, and probably *Japan* itself; for *Kempfer* says, that a few small bears are found in the northern provinces.

It is very certain that this species of bear feeds on vegetables. *Du Pratz*, who is a faithful as well as intelligent writer, relates, that in one severe winter, when these animals were forced in multitudes from the woods, where there was abundance of animal food, they rejected that, notwithstanding they were ready to perish with hunger, and migrating into the lower *Louisiana*, would often break



*Polar Bear — . N. 270.*

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into the courts of houses. They never touched the butchers meat which lay in their way, but fed voraciously on the corn or roots they met with.

White bear. *Martin's Spitzberg.* 100. *App.* xxvi. *Art. Zool.* i. No. 18.  
*Egede Greenl.* 59. *Ellis voy.* 41. *Crantz* Urfus albus. *Martenfii.* *Klein quad.* 82.  
*Greenl.* i. 73. *Barentz voy.* 18. 45. *La* L'Ours blanc. *Brisson quad.* 188. *De Buf-*  
*Hontan voy.* i. 235. *Catesby Carolina,* *fon,* xv. 128. *Schreber,* cxli. *LEV. MUS.*

210. POLAR.

**B.** with long head and neck: short round ears: end of the nose black: vast teeth; hair long, soft, white, tinged in some parts with yellow: limbs of great size and strength: grows to a vast size: the skins of some are thirteen feet long.

This animal is confined to the coldest part of the globe: it has been found as far as navigators have penetrated northwards, above *lat.* 80. The frigid climates only seem adapted to its nature. It is unknown, except on the shores of *Hudson's Bay*, *Greenland*, and *Spitzbergen*. The north of *Norway*, and the country of *Mesen*, in the north of *Russia*, are destitute of them: but they are met with again in great abundance in *Nova Zembla*, and from the river *Ob*, along the *Siberian* coast, to the mouths of the *Jenesei*, and *Lena*, but are never seen far inland, unless they lose their way in mists; none are found in *Kamtschatka*, or its islands.

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They have been seen as far south as *Newfoundland*; but they are not natives of that country, being only brought there accidentally on the islands of ice.

During summer the white bears are either resident on islands of ice, or passing from one to another: they swim admirably, and can.

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can continue that exercise\* six or seven leagues; and dive with great agility. They bring two young at a time: the affection between the parents and them is so strong, that they would die rather than desert one another. Their winter retreats are under the snow†, in which they form deep dens, supported by pillars of the same, or else under some great eminence beneath the fixed ice of the frozen sea.

They feed on fish, seals, and the carcases of whales; and on human bodies, which they will greedily disinter: they seem very fond of human blood; and are so fearless as to attack companies of armed men, and even to board small vessels. When on land, they live on birds, and their eggs; and, allured by the scent of the seals flesh, often break into and plunder the houses of the *Greenlanders*: their greatest enemy in the brute creation is the *Morse* ‡, with whom they have terrible conflicts, but are generally worsted; the vast teeth of the former giving it a superiority.

The flesh is white, and said to taste like mutton: the fat is melted for train oil; and that of the feet used in medicine; but the liver is very unwholesome, as three of *Barentz's* sailors experienced, who fell dangerously ill on eating some of it boiled.

One of this species was brought over to *England*, a few years ago: it was very furious, almost always in motion, roared loud, and seemed very uneasy, except when cooled by having pail-fulls of water poured on it.

*Callixenus Rhodius* §, in his description of the pompous pro-

\* *La Hontan*, i. † *Egede*, 60. ‡ *Egede, Greenl.* 60. 83.

§ As quoted by *Athenæus*, *lib. v. p. 201.*

cession

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cession of *Ptolemæus Philadelphus* at *Alexandria*, speaks of one great white Bear, *ἄρκτος λευκή μεγάλη μία*, among other wild beasts that graced the shew: notwithstanding the local situation of this species at present, it is possible that *Ptolemy* might procure one; whether men could penetrate, in those early times, as far as the present residence of these *Arctic* animals, I will not venture to affirm, nor to deny; but since my friend, the Hon. *Daines Barrington* \*, has clearly proved the intense cold that in former ages raged in countries now more than temperate, it is most probable that in those times they were stocked with animals natural to a rigorous climate; which, since the alteration, have necessarily become extinct in those parts: the *Polar* bear might have been one; but that it was the species meant by *Callixenus* is clear to me, by the epithet *μεγάλη*, or *great*, which is very applicable to it; for the white *Tartarian* land bear (which *Ptolemy* might very easily procure) differs not in size from the black or brown kind, but the bulk of the other is quite characteristic.

Land bears, sometimes spotted with white; at other times wholly white; are sometimes observed on the parts of *Russia* bordering on *Siberia*, in a wandering state, supposed to have strayed out of the lofty snowy mountains, which divide the two countries †.

PIED  
LAND BEARS.

\* *Phil. Transf.* vol. lviii. p. 58.

† *Doctor Pallas.*

Quickhatch.



211. WOLVERENE. Quickhatch *Catesby Carolina, App. xxx.*  
 Carcajou, or Quickhatch. *Dobbs Hud-*  
*son's Bay, 40.*  
 Quickhatch, or Wolverene. *Ellis Hud-*  
*son's Bay, 42. Clerk's voy. ii. 3.*  
*Edw. 103.*  
 Urfus lufcus. U. cauda elongata, cor-  
 pore ferrugineo, rostro fulco, fronte  
 plagaque laterali corporis. *Lin. syst.*  
*71. Art. Zool. 1. N° 21.*  
 Urfus. *Freti Hudsonis.* U. castanei co-  
 loris, cauda unicolore, rostro pedi-  
 busque fuscis. *Briffon quad. 188.*  
*Schreber, cxliv.*  
 Le Glouton. *De Buffon, Supplem. iii.*  
 244. LEV. MUS.

**B** with a black sharp-pointed visage: short rounded ears, al-  
 most hid in the hair: hairs on the head, back, and belly,  
 reddish, with black tips, so that those parts appear, on first  
 sight, quite black: sides of a yellowish brown, which passes in  
 form of a band quite over the hind part of the back, above the  
 tail: on the throat a white spot: on the breast a white mark, in  
 form of a crescent: legs very strong, thick and short, of a deep  
 black: five toes on each foot\*, not deeply divided: on the fore  
 foot of that I examined were some white spots: the bottom of  
 the feet covered very thickly with hair: rests, like the bear, on its  
 foot, as far as the first joint of the leg; and walks with its back  
 greatly arched: claws strong and sharp, white at their ends: tail  
 clothed with long coarse hairs; those at the base reddish, at the  
 end black: some of the hairs are six inches long: length from nose

\* Mr. *Edwards* observed only four toes on the fore feet of the animal he de-  
 scribes. My description is taken from an entire skin, in very fine preservation,  
 communicated to me by the late Mr. *Ashton Blackburne*, of *Orford, Lancashire*,  
 who, with indefatigable industry and great judgment, enriched the cabinets of  
 his friends with the rarest natural productions of that continent: as this work  
 has profited so greatly by that gentleman's labors, it would be ungrateful to  
 omit my acknowledgements.

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*Holvorenus N° 211.*