SEPIA OCTOPODIA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus carnosum : vagina excipiente pectus, ad
cujus basin tubus.

Brachia (præter bina tentacula pedunculata in ple-
risque) octo interius adspersa cirris verrucosis.

Os inter brachia, terminale, corneum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3149.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SEPIA corpore ecaudato, tentaculis pedunculatis
nullis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1095.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3149.

POLYPUS octopus.

Rondel. pisc. 513.

OCTOPODIA.

Hasselg. act. ups. 1750. p. 33.

POLYPUS pelagius.

Seb. mus. 3. p. 4. t. 2. f. 1—7.

Magna interdum huic animali moles est; major
nullibi quam in oceano Indico et Septentrionali.

Narrat

Narrat Dominus Pennantus se ab hominibus fide dignis accepisse, in certis maris Indici partibus visa interdum fuisse specimina, quorum singula brachia longa essent novem orgyias; Indosque navigium suscipere non audere, nisi prius latis securibus instructos, ut brachia sepiae cymbam prensantis possint abscindere: quod ni faciant periclitari ipsam cymbam ne sub aquis mergatur.

Lepidam historiam ex Trebio Nigro excerptit Plinius de monstro hujusmodi *, quod immodicis in receptacula commissis furtis, non levem piscatorum iram in se convertit.

“ Cætera, quæ idem retulit, monstro propiora possunt videri.

Carteïæ in cetariis assuetus exire e mari in lacus eorum apertos, atque ibi salsamenta populari, (mire omnibus marinis expetentibus odorem quoque eorum: qua de causa et nassis illinuntur:) convertit in se custodum indignationem assiduitate furti. Immodicæ his sepes erant objectæ: sed has transcendebat per arborem: nec deprehendi potuit, nisi canum sagacitate. Hi redeuntem circumvasere noctu, concitique custodes expavere novitatem. Primum omnium magnitudo inaudita erat: deinde color muria obliti, odore diri. Quis ibi polypum expectasset, aut ita cognosceret? cum monstro dimicare sibi videbantur. Namque et afflatu terribili canes agebat, nunc extremis crinibus flagellatos, nunc robustioribus brachiis clavarum modo incussos, ægreque multis

* *S. Loligine?*

tridentibus confici potuit. Ostendere Lucullo caput ejus, dolii magnitudine, amphorarum quindecim capax, atque, (ut ipsius Trebii verbis utar) barbas, quas vix utroque brachio complecti effet, clavarum modo torosas : longas pedum tricenûm : acetabulis, five caliculis urnalibus, pelvium modo : dentes magnitudini respondentes. Reliquiæ affervatæ miraculo pependere pondo dcc.”

Huc forsan referenda sunt quæ vaga et incerta scribuntur de monstro Arctico, *Kraken* seu *Korven* dicto ; quod verisimile est originem duxisse ab ingentibus aliquibus hujus speciei speciminibus, in mari septentrionali visis, et in majus, ut fit, celebratis.

THE
EIGHT-ARMED CUTTLE-FISH.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body fleshy, sheathing the breast, which is furnished at its base with a tubular opening.

Arms eight, (and in most species two pedunculated tentacula,) beset with numerous suckers or acetabula.

Head short; *Eyes* large; *Mouth* resembling a Parrot's beak.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Short-bodied CUTTLE-FISH, without any tail or appendage; with eight arms and no tentacula or longer arms.

The SEA POLYPUS.

The eight-armed CUTTLE-FISH.

Penn. Br. Zool. 4. p. 44. *pl.* 28.

The size to which this animal sometimes grows is very great; but it is in the Indian and Northern seas that it seems to arrive at its fullest magnitude. Mr. Pennant tells us he has been well assured that in
some

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some parts of the Indian seas, specimens have been seen with each arm of the length of nine fathoms; and that in those seas the Indians never venture to navigate their canoes or boats without being provided with broad hatchets in order to cut off the arms of the cuttlefish, should it happen to attack the vessel, which it sometimes does in such a manner as greatly to endanger its being drawn under water.

A most entertaining account is given by Pliny, from Trebius Niger, of an enormous monster of this kind (perhaps a *Loligo*), near the coast of Carteia, which used to rob the neighbouring reservoirs of salted fish, and which continued its depredations in so alarming a manner as to provoke the vengeance of the enraged proprietors.

This tale, in the translation of honest Philemon Holland, runs thus.

“ The rest which mine author hath related as touching this fish, may seem rather monstrous lies and incredible, than otherwise: for he affirmed, that at Carteia there was one of these *Polypi*, which used commonly to go forth of the sea, and enter into some of their open cisterns and vaults among their ponds and stewes, wherein they kept great sea-fishes, and otherwhiles would rob them of their salt-fish, and so go his waies againe: which he practised so long, that in the end he gat himselfe the anger and displeasure of the masters and keepers of the said ponds and cisterns, with his continuall and immeasurable filching: wherupon they staked up the place and empalled

palled it round about, to stop all passage thither. But this thiefe gave not over his accustomed haunt for all that, but made meanes by a certaine tree to clamber over and get to the fore-said salt-fish; and never could he be taken in the manner nor discovered, but that the dogges by their quicke sent found him out and bayed at him: for as he returned one night toward the sea, they assailed and set upon him on all sides, and therewith raised the foresaid keepers, who were affrighted at this so sodaine an alarme, but more at the straunge sight which they saw. For first and foremost this Polype fish was of an unmeasurable and incredible bignesse: and besides, hee was besmeared and beraied all over with the brine and pickle of the foresaid salt-fish, which made him both hideous to see to, and also to stinke withall most strongly. Who would ever have looked for a Polype there, or taken knowledge of him by such markes as these? Surely they thought no other, but that they had to deale and encounter with some monster: for with his terrible blowing and breathing that he kept, he drave away the dogges, and otherwhiles with the ends of his long stringed winding feet, he would lash and whip them; sometimes with his stronger clawes like armes he rapped and knocked them well and surely, as it were with clubs. In summe, he made such good shift for himselfe, that hardly and with much adoe they could kill him, albeit he received many a wound by trout-speares which they launced at him. Well, in the end his head was brought and shewed to Lucullus for a wonder,

der, and as bigge it was as a good round hoghead or barrel that would take and containe 15 Amphores: and his beards (for so Trebius tearmed his clawes and long-stringed feet) carried such a thickness and bulke with them, that hardly a man could fathom one of them about with both his armes, such knockers they were, knobbed and knotted like clubs, and withall 30 foot long. The concavities within them, and hollow vessels like great basons, would hold four or five gallons apeece: and his teeth were answerable in proportion to the bignes of his bodie. The rest was saved for a wonder to be seen, and waighed 700 pound weight."

It may be added that the vague and uncertain descriptions of the northern animal called the Kraken or Korven, may perhaps owe their origin to exaggerated accounts of some uncommonly large specimens of this animal seen in the northern seas.

Shaw, George. 1798. "The Eight-Armed Cuttle-Fish, *Sepia octopodia* [Pl. 359]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXI), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304540>.

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