BRADYPUS TRIDACTYLUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes primores nulli utrinque.

Laniarii obtusi, solitarii, molaribus longiores, occurrentes.

Molares utrinque 5, obtusi.

Corpus pilis tectum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 50.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

BRADYPUS pedibus tridactylis, cauda brevi.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 50.

Hoc animali vix aliud aspectu deformius et inelegantius potest excogitari. Species ita in tabula depicta, in America Australi nascitur; sedem sibi quærens in desertissimis locis, ubi otium turbare nec possint homines aut alia animantia. Negat celeberrimus Naturæ scrutator Buffonius reperiri posse aliquid in hoc animali quod mundani systematis vel usui vel decori inserviat; clamitans monstrum esse informe, sine arte et consilio factum, et ad solas æumnas aptum. Nec mirum, ait ille; magna enim pars hominum vix fato meliore gaudet. Pace tamen tanti viri, (qui sæpe seria cum ludicris permiscet) liceat mihi dicere hoc ipsum animal tam vile, tam visu fœdum, pro suis vitæ moribus suisque propriis

priis amœnitatibus non minus apte et idonee formari, quam alia animantia, queis melior forma et ingenium vividius obtigerint. Fructibus præcipue vescitur Bradypus; sed et folia ipsa lubenter comedit. Motu incedit languido et tardissimo. Vocem emittere dicitur tam ultra fidem singularem, tam miseranter ejulantem, vultu simul adeo lachrymoso, ut audientium misericordiam et fastidium commoveat. Insolitum hunc clamorem, (a natura, ut credere par est pro defensione datum) simul ac audierint alia animalia, terrore percita in fugam se recipiunt. Nec tamen vox et præterea nihil, quo se defendat data est; adeo enim robore præpollet Bradypus, ut canem, unguibus suis prehensum, vehementer renitentem, et omni vi evadere conantem mordicus retineat, donec ipsa fame consumptum miserit. Tantam enim ipse tolerare potest abstinentiam, ut trunco appensus, sine esca aut potu, per mensem integrum duraverit, vix tandem fame et languore consumptus. Patet hoc a mirando Kircheri experimento.

Alia exstat Bradypi species; huic valde similis; cui tamen pedes anteriores duobus tantum unguibus muniti sunt.

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& Co. N. 13. Panton Street.

THE THREE-TOED SLOTH.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

No *Cutting-Teeth* in either Jaw.

Canine Teeth obtuse, single, longer than the grinders, placed opposite.

Grinders five on each side, obtuse.

Fore-Legs much longer than the hind.

Claws very long. [Linnæus and Pennant.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

SLOTH, with three toes on each foot, and a very short tail; size of a smallish dog.

THREE-TOED SLOTH.

Pennant. *Hist. Quadr.* p. 494.

L'AI. [Buffon. vol. XIII. p. 34. tab. 5. 6.

So extraordinary is the union of awkwardness and ugliness in this uncommon creature, that it has generally been regarded as one of the most striking examples of animal deformity. The species here exhibited, is a native of South America, where it resides in solitary places, and where its quietude is least liable to be disturbed by Man or other animals. A celebrated Naturalist, the Count de BUFFON, will not allow this creature to have any share in contributing to the general beauty in the chain of beings, but regards it as an ill-constructed mass of deformity, created only for misery, which he
thinks.

thinks is the less to be wondered at, when perhaps the major part of mankind experience the same fate. With submission, however, to this lively Naturalist, I should not hesitate to believe that the Sloth, notwithstanding this appearance of wretchedness and deformity, is as well fashioned for its proper modes and habits of life, and feels as much happiness in its solitary and obscure retreats, as the rest of the animal world of greater locomotive powers and superior external elegance.

The Sloth feeds chiefly on fruit: it will even feed on the leaves of trees; and it is of all animals the most languid in its motions. Its voice is said to be so inconceivably singular, and of such a mournful melancholy, attended at the same time with such a misery of aspect, that it excites at once a mixture of pity and disgust; and that the animal makes use of this natural yell as its best mode of defence; since other creatures are frightened away by the uncommon sound. This is, however, far from being its only refuge; for so great is the share of muscular strength which it possesses, that it is capable of seizing a dog with its claws, and holding it, in spite of all its efforts to escape, 'till it perishes with hunger; for the Sloth itself is so well calculated for supporting abstinence, that the celebrated Kircher assures us of its power in this respect having been exemplified by the very singular experiment of suffering one which had fastened itself to a pole, to remain in that situation, without any sustenance, 'till it perished through fatigue and famine; which did not happen 'till more than the space of a whole month.

There is another species of Sloth which has the same general appearance with the species here figured, but is furnished with only two toes to the fore-feet.

Shaw, George. 1789. "The Three-Toed Sloth, *Bradypus tridactylus* [Pl. 6]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 1(II), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310660>.

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