

NATURAL HISTORY.

The BUBALUS, or CERVINE AN-
TILOPE, and other Animals allied
to the GAZELLES and GOATS.

THE BUBALUS*.

IN the article Buffalo, we remarked, that the modern Latins had improperly applied to it the name *bubalus*. This appellation anciently belonged to the animal we are now treating of, whose

* The porcine antelope, with horns bending outward and backward, almost close at their base, and distant at their points; twisted and annulated; very strong and black; some of them are above twenty inches long, and above eleven in girth at the base. The head is large, and like that of an ox. The eyes are placed very high, and near the horns. The form of the body is a mixture of the stag and heifer. It is of the size of the former. The tail is rather more than a foot long, and terminated with a tuft of hair. The colour is a reddish brown; Pennant's *Synops. of Quad.* p. 37.

Bubalus, in Greek; *bubalus*, in Latin; *bubale*, in French.
Bubalus, *Aristoteli* Genus id sibi arum.—Cervi, damæ,
Bubali, et aliorum quorundam sanguini deest, quocirca eorum
VOL. VII. A sanguis

whose nature is very different from that of the buffalo. In some external qualities it resembles the stag, the gazelles, and the ox. It resembles the stag in size and figure*, and particularly in the form of its limbs: But its horns are permanent, and nearly constructed like those of the largest gazelles, to which it is allied by this character as well as its natural dispositions. Its head, however, is much longer than that of the gazelles, or even that of the stag. In fine, it resembles the ox in the length

sanguis non similiter atque ceterorum concrevit. — *Bubali* sanguis aliquantulo spissatur; quippe qui proximo ovillo aut paulo minus coarctatur. *Arif. Hist. Anim. lib. iii. cap. 6.* — *Bubalis* etiam capricque interdum cornua inutilia sunt; nam etsi contra nonnulla resistunt et cornibus sese defendunt, tamen feroces, pugnacesque belluas fugiunt; *Idem, de partibus Animal. lib. iii. cap. 11.*

Bubalus. Plin. Bubalum gignit Africa, vituli cervine quadam similitudine; *Hist. Nat. lib. viii. cap. 15.*

Bucalus; Elias. lib. iii. cap. 1. lib. v. cap. 48. lib. vii. cap. 47. et lib. xiii. cap. 4.

Bucalus. Oppian. Dordene platycerote corpore inferior, cornua non ramosa sicut cervi et caprei, sed rupicaprarum cornibus similia, tum sita, tum in averiam partem retortis mucronibus, ad pugnam fere inutilia; *De Venatione, lib. ii.*

Buephalus Cavi, apud Gesnerum; Hist. Zood. p. 121.

Bubalus Capreolus Africanus; Horatius Fontana, apud Alderandam, de Zood. Bijal. p. 364 & 365. Ubi vide figuram.

Vache de Barbarie; Mémoires pour servir à l'Histoire des Animaux, part. ii. p. 24. fig. 39.

Elin; Description du Cap de Bonne-esperance, par Kolbe, tom. iii. chap. 4.

Bacula cervina; Cavi Opusc. p. 63.

Antelope Bubalus; Pallas Mysel. spicil. 12.

* See the figure and description of the Barbary cow in the *Mém. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux, part. ii. p. 24. tab. 39.*

of

of the muzzle, and in the disposition of the bones of the head, which, as in the ox, jut not out behind farther than the frontal bone. These relations in external structure, joined to its ancient name being forgotten, are the reasons why, in modern times, it has obtained the compound denominations of *buephalus*, *bull-flag*, *bucula-cervina*, *cow-hind*, *Barbary cow*, &c. Even the name *bubalus* comes from *bubulus*, and has been applied to it on account of the similarity of this animal to the ox.

The head of the bubalus is narrow; the eyes are placed very high; and the front is short and narrow. The horns are large, black, permanent, and furnished with large rings. They spring near each other, but recede considerably at their extremities. They bend backward, and are twisted spirally*. His shoulders are so high, that they form a kind of bunch on the withers. The tail is nearly a foot long, and garnished with a tuft of hairs at the point. The ears are similar to those of the *antelope*. Kolbe† has

* See *Mém. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux, part. ii. p. 24. tab. 39.*

† The African elk.—Its head is beautiful, and resembles that of the stag, but it is smaller in proportion to the size of the body. Its horns are about a foot in length. Near the head they are rugged, but straight, uniform, and pointed at the extremities. Its neck is free and beautiful. The upper lip is a little larger than the under. Its limbs are long, thin, and delicate; and its tail is about a foot in length. The hair which covers its body is soft, smooth, and of an ash-colour. The African elk weighs about four hundred pounds; *Descript. du Cap de Bonne-esperance, par Kolbe, tom. iii. chap. 4.*

given to this animal the appellation of *elk*, though it has no other resemblance to the elk than by its hair being more slender at the root than in the middle, or at the point, which is peculiar to these two animals; for, in almost every quadruped, the hair is always grosser at the root than in the middle, or at the point. The hair of the bubalus is nearly of the same colour with that of the elk, though it is much shorter, softer, and less bushy *. These are the only resemblances between the elk and bubalus; for they differ in every other particular. The horns of the elk are larger and heavier than those of the stag, and

* The habit of body, the legs, and the neck of this animal, give it a stronger resemblance to a stag than to a cow, of which last he has only the horns, and even these differ considerably from those of the cow. They spring very near each other; because the head is here extremely narrow; but, in the cow, the front is very large. They were about a foot long, black, bended backward, twisted spirally, and so used before and above, that the elevations of the screw were almost entirely effaced. The tail exceeded not thirteen inches in length, including the tuft of hair at the point, which was three inches long. The ears resemble those of the gazelles, the inside being garnished, in some places, with white hair; the rest was naked, and exhibited a skin perfectly black and smooth. The eyes were high, and so near the horns, that the head seemed to have no front. There were only two very thin, short teats, which render this animal very different from our cows. The shoulders were so high, that they formed a kind of bunch on the withers.—This animal seems rather to be the bubalus of the ancients than the small African ox described by Belon; for Solinus compares the bubalus to the stag; Oppian gives him horns turned backward; and Pliny says, that he partakes of the calf and stag; *Mem. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux*, par. ii. p. 25.

are likewise renewed annually. The horns of the bubalus, on the contrary, never fall off, but continue to grow during life, and resemble, in figure and texture, those of the gazelles. He resembles the gazelles still more in the figure of his body, the lightness of his head, the length of his neck, the position of his eyes, ears, and horns, and in the form and length of his tail. The gentlemen of the Academy of Sciences, to whom this animal was presented under the name of the *Barbary-cow*, and who adopted that denomination, have not failed to recognise it to be the *bubalus* of the ancients. Though we have rejected this compound appellation, we hesitate not to copy here their exact description, by which it appears that this animal is not a gazelle, a goat, a cow, an elk, or a stag *, but that it is a particular and distinct species. Besides, it is the same with that described by Caius †, under the name of *bustelaphus*; and I was surprised that the gentlemen of the Academy omitted this remark,

* The bubalus is separated from the stag kind by two essential characters: 1. The horns never shed. 2. The bubalus has a gall-bladder, which is wanting in the stag, the fallow-deer, the roebuck, &c. 'The gall-bladder,' say the gentlemen of the academy, 'was placed on the right side; its internal half was attached to the liver, and the membrane which formed the external half was thin, delicate, and folded, being entirely void of gall.' *Mem. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux*, par. ii. p. 29.

† Ex Mauritanie deferis loci (inquit Job. Cains Anglicus) ad nos adventum est animal bifido velligio, magnitudine cervæ, forma et aspectu inter cervam et juveneam; unde ex argumento voco *Bustelaphum* seu *Buvi-cervam*, *Mestelaphum* seu *Buculum-cervinam*;

mark, as all the characters ascribed by Caius to his *bustaphbus* correspond with their Barbary-cow.

In the Royal Cabinet there is, 1. A skeleton of the bubalus, which had been described and dissected by the gentlemen of the Academy; 2. A head, which is much larger than that of the skeleton, and the horns are also thicker and longer; 3. A portion of another head, with horns as large as the former, but whose figure and direction are different. Hence, in the bubali, as well as in the gazelles, antilopes, &c.

vinam: Capite et aure longa atque tenui, tibia et ungula gracili ut cervæ, ita ut ad celeritatem videatur factum animal. Cauda pedali longitudine et paulo amplius, forma caudæ vaccinæ quam simillima, sed brevitate accedens propius ad cervinam: Natura quasi ambigente cervinæ esset an vaccæ, per superiora rufa et lenis, per ima nigra et hirta. Colore corporis fulvo seu rufo undique pilo, sessile cuteque æquato, in fronte stellatim posito, ac fere corisibus per ambitum erecto: Cornibus nigris, in summum levibus, cætera rugosis, rugis ex adversa parte sibi vicinioribus, ex averfa ad duplam aut triplam latitudinem a se ductis. Ea cornua primo suo oru digitali tantum latitudinem distantia, paulatim se dilatant ad medium usque sui longitudinem et paulo ultra, qua parte distant palmos tres cum semisse, tum se reducant leviter et recedunt rursus in aversum, ita ut extrema cornua non distent nisi palmorum duorum digitum trium et semissis intervallo: Longa quidem sunt pedem unum et palmum unum crassa, vero in ambitu ad radices palmos tres. Caput a vertice, qua parte linea nigra inter cornua dividitur, ad extremas nates, longum est pedem unum palmos duos et digitum unum; latum qua est latissimum, in fronte videlicet paulo supra ocalorum regionum, digitos septem: Crassum in ambitu qua maximum est pedem unum et palmos tres. Dentes habet octonos, ordine caret superiori et ruminat; ubera sunt duo, corpori inæquata, quo constat juveneam esse necdum satiam; Caius de Bustaphbus. G. sarr. Hist. Quad. p. 121.

there are varieties in the size of the body and the figure of the horns. But these differences seem to be too inconsiderable to constitute distinct species.

The bubalus is very common in Barbary, and in all the northern parts of Africa. He has nearly the same dispositions with the antilopes; and, like them, his hair is short, his skin black, and his flesh is good to eat.