



<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

**The British miscellany, or, Coloured figures of new, rare, or little known animal subjects : many not before ascertained to be inhabitants of the British Isles : and chiefly in the possession of the author, James Sowerby.**

London :Printed by R. Taylor & Co., and sold by the author, J. Sowerby by White, Johnson, Symonds, and all other booksellers, 1806.

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/41623>

**v. 1-2 (1806):** <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/91785>

Page(s): Title Page, Tab. 9, Page 17, Page 18

Contributed by: Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Sponsored by: Smithsonian

Generated 4 December 2012 2:33 PM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/015063900091785>

This page intentionally left blank.



THE  
BRITISH MISCELLANY:

OR  
*COLOURED FIGURES*

OF  
NEW, RARE, OR LITTLE KNOWN  
ANIMAL SUBJECTS;

MANY NOT BEFORE ASCERTAINED TO BE INHABITANTS  
OF THE BRITISH ISLES;

AND  
CHIEFLY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE AUTHOR,

JAMES SOWERBY, F.L.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF GÖTTINGEN;  
DESIGNER OF ENGLISH BOTANY AND EXOTIC BOTANY; AND  
AUTHOR OF ENGLISH FUNGI AND BRITISH MINERALOGY.

---

Let no presuming impious railer tax  
Creative Wisdom, as if aught was formed  
In vain, or not for admirable ends.

. . . . .  
And lives the man whose universal eye  
Has swept at once th' unbounded scheme of things?

*Thomson's Seasons, line 318, &c.*

---

VOL. I.

---

LONDON:

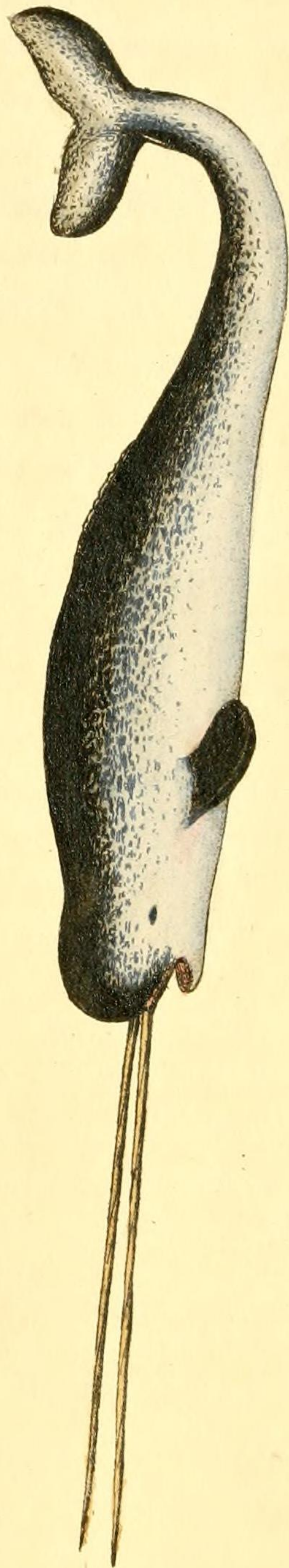
PRINTED BY R. TAYLOR & Co., 38, SHOE-LANE, FLEET-STREET;

And sold by the Author, J. SOWERBY, at No. 2, Mead-Place,  
Lambeth; by WHITE, Fleet-street; JOHNSON, St. Paul's  
Churchyard; SYMONDS, Paternoster Row; and  
all other Booksellers.

---

MDCCCVI.







## TAB. IX.

## MONODON Monoceros.

*Sea Unicorn, or Narwhal.*

---

Class 1. Mammalia. Order 7. Cete.

GEN. CHAR. *Teeth* two, long, spiral, projected forwards from the front of the upper jaw, through the lip.

SYN. Monodon Monoceros. *Linn. Syst. Nat. ed. 13.*  
*v. 1. 222. Turt. v. 1. 127.*

---

THIS animal was cast on the coast at Friestone, in Boston-Deeps, on Feb. 15, 1800. It perfectly agreed with the name given by Linnæus, in having but one tooth, looking like a horn; but, on examining the upper jaw, it was very evident that the other tooth had been lost; and we have since seen a perfect skeleton of the head of this animal with the two teeth fixed in their proper sockets. The present specimen was 25 feet in length, and the tooth seven feet six inches. The teeth are spirally twisted, with a slight groove, terminating in a smooth point, as if worn down, and consist of very hard, compact ivory. Mouth rather small. Front of the head much rounded and blunt. Eyes black and small, considering the size of the animal, as in all the Order *Cete*. We observed the rudiment of a fin on the back, and a hard ridge near the tail. Black above from the nose to the tail, softened with streaky spots towards the sides, which are white, with a few spots. Belly white.



Fins black. The whole animal was covered with a black and white horny substance, like some kinds of tortoise-shell, composed of laminæ for an inch or more in depth. In the stomach were found the horny beaks of cuttle-fish in great quantity.

It was shown in Cockspur-street for some time, also at Cambridge. This animal is said to be most frequently found with only one tooth. It will occasionally pierce the bottom of a ship with its teeth; which circumstance may account for the frequent loss of one of them.