

severe adherence to systematic arrangement from the teeth, could justify its being placed in the present genus; yet even this particular seems not yet distinctly known, the animal being rarely imported into Europe. The particular size is not mentioned by Seba, but it appears to be a large species, since the length of its quills is said to be from an inch to a foot and half, on different parts of the animal. It is therefore probably about the size of the common porcupine, and they are variegated in a similar manner; the ears are large and pendulous; and there is no crest or ruff of longer bristles than the rest on the back of the head, as in the common porcupine.

This is said to be the animal from which is taken the particular Bezoar, called Piedra del Porco, the Lapis Hystricis, Bezoar Hystricis, and Lapis Porcinus, of the old *Materia Medica*, so long and so highly extolled on account of its supposed virtues; which were such, according to some authors, as to produce the most wonderful and salutary effects in fevers, and various other disorders of a malignant nature.

In order to experience the effect of this wonderful concrete, which is commonly about the size of a small walnut, round, smooth, and of a reddish brown colour, nothing more was necessary than to infuse it for some minutes in a glass of wine, water, or other liquor, which was, by this method, impregnated with all its virtues, and administered to the patient. The truth is, that being a biliary concretion, found in the gall-bladder, it is intensely bitter, and being salutary in water, impregnates the fluid with its bitterness, and with its supposed aperient, stomachic, and alexipharmic virtues.

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