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NATURAL HISTORY



THE KANGUROO

The Kangaroo is one of the latest discoveries in the history of quadrupeds. It is a native of New Holland, and resembles most the animals of the jerboa kind, but is considerably larger, as it frequently is found to weigh upwards of eighty or ninety pounds. There are other circumstances in which it differs from these animals. The snout of the jerboa is short and round, that of the kangaroo long and slender. The head, neck and shoulders are very small in proportion to the other parts of the body. From its eating grass, which it has been seen to do, one would be apt to rank it among the ruminant animals; but from the canine teeth, which it is found to have, we may, on the other hand, suppose it to bear

some relation to the carnivorous. Upon the whole, however, it can be compared with none more properly than with animals of the jerboa kind, as its hind legs are much larger than the fore; it moves also precisely in the same manner, taking great bounds of ten or twelve feet at a time, and sometimes escaping even the fleetest greyhound, with which Mr. Banks pursued it. One of them that was killed proved to be good food; but a second, which weighed eighty-four pounds, and was not yet come to its full growth, was found to be much inferior. Its tail is nearly as long as the body, tapering towards the end.

The kangaroo, like the opossum, has a pouch for the reception of its young.