

Dr. Shaw, in his Lectures, speaks with equal decision regarding the occurrence of this animal: "The existence of some enormously large species of the cuttle-fish tribe, in the northern Indian seas, can hardly be doubted; and though some accounts may have been exaggerated, yet there is sufficient cause for believing that such species may very far surpass all that are generally observed about the coasts of European seas. A northern navigator, of the name of Deris, is said, some years ago, to have lost three men in the African seas by a monster of the colossal cuttle-fish kind, which unexpectedly made its appearance while the men were employed, during a calm, in raking the sides of a vessel. The colossal fish seized three men in its arms, and drew them under water, in spite of every effort to preserve them: the thickness of one of the arms, which was cut off in the contest, was that of the mizzen-mast, and the suckers of the size of pot-lids."

Denys Montfort, in his "Natural History of the Mollusca," relates that off the coast of Angola (West Coast of Africa) an enormous cuttle-fish suddenly threw its arms across the vessel, and was on the point of dragging it to the bottom, when the continual efforts of the crew succeeded in cutting off the tentacula with swords and hatchets.

The Japanese have evidently a belief that the cuttle-fish will attack human beings; for in Mr. Laurence Oliphant's "China and Japan," there is a description of a Japanese show, which consists of a series of figures carved in wood, the size of life, and as cleverly coloured as "Madame Tussand's wax-works." One of these groups Mr. Oliphant describes as follows: "No. 5 was a group of women bathing in the sea; one of them had been caught in the folds of a cuttle-fish; the others, in alarm, were escaping, leaving their companion to her fate. The cuttle-fish was represented on a large scale—its eyes, eyelids, and mouth being made to move simultaneously by a man inside the head."

Mr. Beale, in his "South Sea Voyage," describes an adventure he had on the Bonin Islands, where he tried to stop an Octopus (which was four feet across its expanded arms) from getting back into the water. The brute fastened upon his person, with a murderous clutch, and had to be cut off from him bit by bit.

More recent accounts are so circumstantial and trustworthy, that it is impossible to doubt the occurrence of cuttle-fish of a very large size. Péron observed on the coasts of Van Dieman's