

and in as few words as I can, how we may know a Squirrel when we see it, and in what respects it differs from other animals.

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A concise sketch was here given of the classification of the animal kingdom, and the Squirrels were traced down step by step to the Rodentia.

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By an examination of the little animal in question we learn at once that it belongs to the order of rodents. The animals of this order are easily distinguished by the arrangement of their teeth. They have no canine teeth, the incisors or cutting teeth being for the most part only two in each jaw, large and strong, and a vacant space between them and the molars or grinders. The front teeth have a plate of hard enamel on the outside which wears more slowly than the substance of which the rest of the teeth is composed, for this reason the teeth always remain sharp, acquiring a chisel like form, well adapted for cutting or gnawing; and unlike the teeth of most other animals, they are always growing from a fleshy pulp at the base so that compensation is made for wear at the cutting ends. Something over six hundred different kinds of rodents have been described and are to be found in nearly every part of the globe; about one hundred species have been described as belonging to North America.

Having located our little friend among the *Rodentia*, it is necessary to follow him just a little further in order to find out who he is. The divisions in the order are called families, each family having some peculiarity common to itself. Among the first of the family names we find that of *Sciuridæ*, deriving their name from a corruption of two Greek words, *skia*, a shade, and *oura*, a tail, from a habit they have of curling their tails over and along their backs so as to form a kind of shade. They are described as animals of rather small size with great variation in color, their bodies being longish, eyes large and bright, ears erect, upper lip always divided, the posterior limbs longer than the anterior, the former have five toes and the latter only four with a tubercle covered with an obtuse nail in place of a thumb, tail long with bushy hair and generally distichous or divided laterally, having somewhat the appearance of a thick feather. All the species of