

I described in the Philof. Transactions, Vol. LVII. in my *Specimen Historiæ Naturalis Volgenfis*, N° 10. under the name of *Acipenser Ruthenus major, rostro elongato acuminato, paululum fupino*, and which the Ruffians call *Sevruga*. Kramer, in his *Elenchus Vegetabilium & Animalium Auftriæ*, p. 383. is the only writer that I know who takes notice of this fpecies; he calls it *Acipenser rostro acuto, corpore tuberculis spinofis aspero*: the inhabitants of Auftria call it *Shirk*, a name they have no doubt borrowed from the Slavonian name *Sevruga*. The famous painter and traveller Cornelys de Bruyn mentions this kind of fish, but in fo superficial a manner, that one plainly fees he was little, if at all, ufed to discussions in points of Natural History. He fays, * “ the *Sterlet* is the “ beft fish in Ruffia; there are two fpecies of it; “ but, upon the whole, it is nearly related to the “ Sturgeon. The *Severukas* differ in nothing from “ the Sturgeon, which the Ruffians call *Afsetrina*. “ The Caviar is made from the *Beluga*, the *Af-* “ *setrina*, and the *Severuka*.” Had de Bruyn examined the *Sevruga*, he would certainly have found it materially different from the *Osetr* or *Afsetrina*, i. e. the common blunt-nofed Sturgeon of Germany and the Baltick. I fuppofe the Englifh Sturgeon, from your own defcription †, and the drawing in the British Zoology, illustrated by plates, tab. LXXXIX. to be the fame with this kind from Hudfon’s Bay, and with the *Sevruga* of the Ruffians, and the *Shirk* of the Auftrians. The true Sturgeon, which gave

* De Bruyn’s Voyage, Tom. I. &c. Amfterd. fol. p. 93.

† Br. Zool. octavo, Vol. III. p. 99.