

This curious creature, which is about the size of a large sheep, and is exclusively found in the country just named, presents one of the most extraordinary figures that occur among the class of quadrupeds. "Its head is small and gentle in appearance, with full bright eyes, a mouth not large, and pointed ears; its neck is slender and graceful; its shoulders narrow; and its fore limbs short, divided into five fingers with nails; the hinder are more than three times the length of the fore, with five toes, of which the two inner are small, and so united as to appear but one; the next is large, strong, and armed with a pointed hoof, no useless weapon of defence, outside of which there is one small claw.

In walking upon all-fours, it limps slowly along; but for speed or safety it depends entirely upon the strength of the hind limbs, bounding along with great velocity, and clearing at one spring obstacles nine feet high, or ravines of nearly double that width. Its food is entirely vegetable."

Though the kangaroo is of a most gentle and inoffensive nature, yet, if attacked, it defends itself with extreme courage, and often kills several of the dogs that attack it, either by a single kick of its powerful hoof, or with one blow of its formidable tail.

Kangaroos associate in troops. Their flesh, which is said to resemble venison, is much esteemed for the table; and they are valuable in this respect, attaining sometimes the weight of two hundred pounds.