

OVEÆ (Gray), a sub-tribe of the tribe *Bovina* and family *Bovidae*. It includes the common Sheep and allied species. The following is Dr. J. E. Gray's definition of this family:—Forehead flat or concave. The horns are more or less spiral, wider than deep at the base, and slightly annulated in front. The females are often hornless. The skull has a more or less deep rounded suborbital pit, without any fissure; the masseteric ridge ascending high before the orbit: the auditory bulla small; the basioccipital flat, more or less expanded anteriorly by the extension of the anterior pair of tubercles, the posterior ones small; the cutting-teeth are nearly equal-sized and shelving; and there are no supplemental lobes to the grinders. The hoofs are triangular, and being shallow behind, they have distinct interdigital fossæ. Males emitting no stench.

The genera included in this family are—

1. *OVIS*. Crumen distinct. Tail elongated. Skin covered with wool or adpressed hair.
2. *CAPROVIS*. Crumen distinct. Tail very short. Skin covered with thick hair which conceals the wool.
3. *PSEUDOIS*. Crumen none. Tail rather elongated. Forehead convex. Skin covered with thick hair.
4. *AMMOTRAGUS*. Crumen none. Tail rather elongated. Forehead concave. Skin covered with short hair, and elongated tuft of hair.

Ovis Aries, the Common Sheep, is subject to great variation, and many of its forms have been raised to the rank of species. Dr. Gray, in the 'British Museum Catalogue,' enumerates no less than 33 varieties of this species.

In the ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION of this work an article is devoted to the SHEEP as the subject of the art of the grazier. We here present a few of the varieties which are more interesting to the zoologist. The Sheep is one of those animals which man has domesticated, and which, like the horse, dog, cat, pig, and ox, is subject to the greatest possible variety. These varieties have been often described as species; but the most distinguished zoologists of the present day regard all the forms of *Ovis* as belonging to the species *O. Aries*.

The following is a list of the varieties from the 'British Museum Catalogue':—

1. The Spanish Sheep. It is the *Ovis Hispanicus* of Linn.; called also the Merino Sheep and the British Middle-Wooled Sheep.
2. The Common Sheep (*Ovis rusticus*, Linn.; *O. Gallica*, Desm.; *O. brachyurus*, Pallas; *O. leptura*, Schreb.): the Hornless Sheep (*O. Anglicana*, Linn.). Of this variety there are numerous forms, such as the Muggs Sheep and Shetland Sheep, the Southdown Sheep, the Old Lincoln Sheep, the Romney Marsh Sheep, the Cobwold Sheep, the New Leicester Sheep, the Cheviot Sheep, the Old Teeswater Sheep, the Improved Teeswater Sheep, the Dunky Sheep, the Zetland and Orkney Sheep, the Welsh Mountain Sheep, the Soft-Wooled Sheep of Wales, the Wicklow Mountain Sheep, the Kerry Sheep, the Exmoor Sheep, the Black-Faced Sheep, the Black-Faced Heath-Sheep, and the Raas or Roosh (*Ovis Polii*, Blyth).
3. The Barwall Sheep, *Ovis (Aries) Bárudl*, Hodgson; *Ovis Barual*, Hodgson; *O. Ammonoides* var. 1, Gray. It inhabits Nepaul.
4. The Humiah Sheep (*Ovis Humia*, Hodgs.); The Hoonia, or Black-Faced Sheep of Tibet. Also a native of Nepaul.
5. The Cago (*Ovis Cagia*, Hodgs.); the Kago, or Tame Sheep of Cabul region; the Cago Sheep of Gray. A native of Nepaul.
6. The Seling. A native of Nepaul.
7. The Curumbar Sheep of Mysore.
8. The Sheep called Gârâr in India.
9. The Dukhun Sheep.
10. The West-Indian Sheep.

11. The Brazilian Sheep.
12. The Demerara Sheep.
13. The South American Sheep (*Ovis Aries*, Rengger).
14. The Smooth-Haired Sheep (*O. Africanus*, Ray; *O. Æthiopia*, Charlet; *O. Africana*, Sloane).
15. The African Sheep (*O. Guineensis*; *A. longipes*, Desm.; *Caper Mambrinus*); the Sheep of Sahara.
16. The Guinea Sheep (Belier et Brebis des Indes, Buffon; *O. A. Guineensis*, Schreb.).
17. The Morvant de la Chine, Buffon.
18. The Shaymbliar Sheep of Mysore.
19. The Sheep of Zeyla, of Buckingham.
20. The Fezzan Sheep, of Bennett, from Tripoli.
21. The St. Helena Sheep.
22. The Marocco Sheep (*O. A. Numida*, H. Smith).
23. The Congo Sheep (*O. A. Congensis*, H. Smith).
24. The Angola Sheep (*O. A. Angolensis*, H. Smith).
25. The Zenu or Goitred Sheep (*O. A. Steatinton*, H. Smith).
26. The Ixalus (*Ixalus probaton*, Ogilby; *O. Ixalon*, Sundevall).
27. The Cretan Sheep (*O. Strepsiceros*, Ray; *O. A. Strepsiceros*, Schreb.; *O. Cretensis*, Jonst.; *Capra Cretensis*, Brisson; *Strepsiceros Cretica*, Besch.; Belier et Brebis de Valachie, Buffon; Zackl of the Austrians; Wallachian Sheep of Bewick).
28. The Long-Tailed Sheep of Russia (*O. longicaudatus*, Brisson; *O. Dolichura seu Tscherkessica*, Pallas).
29. The Broad-Tailed Sheep (*O. laticaudatus*, Erxl., Geoff., 'Mem. Egypte'; Lesson, 'Comp. Buffon,' x. 312; *O. laticauda platyceros s. Arabica*, Linn.; *O. Turcica*, Charlet; *O. cauda obesa*, Ludolf). It is a native of Barbary. There are several forms of this variety, of which the following are most prominent:—The Fat-Rumped Sheep (*O. Steatopyga*, Pallas; the Tartarian Sheep of Bewick); the Persian Sheep (*O. A. ecaudatus*, Geoff.); the Fat-Tailed Sheep (*O. A. macrocerus*,



Fat-Tailed Sheep (*Ovis Aries macrocerus*).

Schreb.); the Aora Fiyel, or Abyssinian Sheep; the Bucharian Sheep (*O. Bucharica*, Pallas); the Tibetan Sheep (*O. Thibetanus*, Fischer); the Cape Sheep (*O. Capensis*, Erxleb.); the Sheep of Belkah.

30. The Many-Horned Sheep (*O. polyceratus*, Linn.). It is also called the Four-Horned Ram, and the Dumba Sheep. It is a native of Nepal.

31. The Puchia, or Hindustan Dumba (*O. puchia*, Hodgson).

32. The Short-Tailed Sheep (*O. brachyura borealis*, Pallas). It is a native of Northern Russia.

33. The Sheep of Tartary. They are said to eat bones like a dog.

The genus *Caprovius* embraces the following species:—

C. Vignei, the Sha, or Koch. It is the Mountain Sheep of the north of India, and is found in Tibet.

C. orientalis, the Armenian Sheep. It is the *Ægoceros Musimon* of Pallas; the *Ovis Musimon* of Brandt. It is a native of Armenia.

NAT. HIST. DIV. VOL. IV.

C. Musimon, the Moufflon. This animal has a multitude of synonyms. It is the *Capra Ammon* of Linnæus, and the *Ovis Musimon* and *O. Musmon* of other authors. It is the Wild Sheep and Siberian Goat of Pennant. It is found in Cyprus, Candia, and Corsica.



Moufflon (*Caprovius Musimon*).

C. Ammotragus, *A. Tragelaphus*, the Aoudad of the Moors of Barbary, and the Kesch of the Arabians, is a native of North Africa.



Kesch (*C. Ammotragus*).

O. Canadensis, the Tays or Big Horn. It is the *Ovis montanus* of Geoffroy; and a variety, the *O. Californiana* of Douglas. Dr. Gray says it is probably the same as the Ammon of Northern Siberia.

There is only one species of *Pseudois*, the *P. Nahoos*, the Nahoos Nervate or Sna. It is a native of Nepal.

C. Argalis, the Argali. It is the *Ægoceros Argali* of Pallas, and often confounded with the former. It is a native of Siberia. Dr. Gray says of this species—

“The Nyens or Bambheras, or Wild Sheep, seldom or never cross the Hemachal, the Indian side of which range is the special habitat of the Nahoos, while to the north and west beyond Thibet our animal is replaced by other species, so that Thibet may be considered as the special habitat of one species (*Ovis Ammonides*), and the plateaux north of Thibet as far as the Altai of another (*Ovis Ammon*), cited as types of the true ovine form; and it may be added, that the six sorts of tame sheep of Thibet and the Sub-Himalayas all without exception exhibit the essential characters of that form.

“There are several species that may be confounded under this head: the Siberian Argali is found in the most northern part of that country, and it is probably different from the Himalayan animal; but I have not been able to discover any difference between the specimen



Argali (*Caprovus Argalis*).

received from Mr. Hodgson and those which were sent from Siberia
by the Russian naturalist."