

There were species of *Anoplotherium* of very small size. *A. leporinum* (or the Hare-*Anoplotherium*), whose feet are evidently adapted for speed; *A. minimum* and *A. obliquum* were of still smaller dimensions; the last, especially, scarcely exceeded the size of a rat. Like the Water-rats, this species inhabited the banks of brooks and small rivers.

The *Xiphodon* was about three feet in height at the withers, and generally about the size of the Chamois, but lighter in form, and with a smaller head. In proportion as the appearance of the *Anoplotherium commune* was heavy and sluggish, so was that of *Xiphodon*

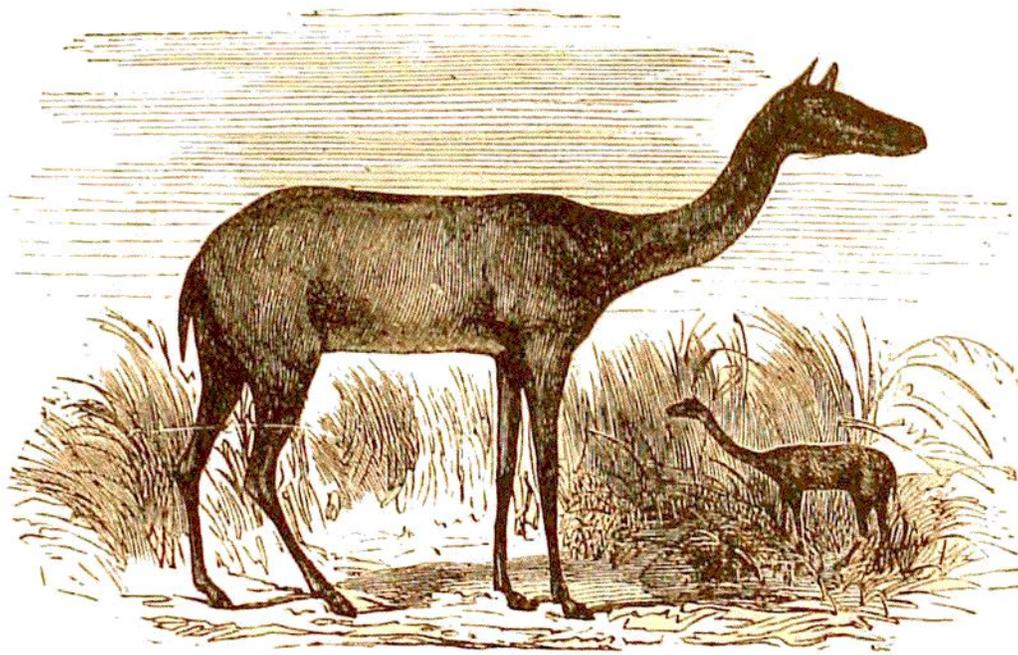


Fig. 155.—*Xiphodon gracile*.

*gracile* graceful and active; light and agile as the Gazelle or the Goat, it would rapidly run round the marshes and ponds, depasturing on the aromatic herbs of the dry lands, or browsing on the sprouts of the young shrubs. "Its course," says Cuvier, in the memoir already quoted, "was not embarrassed by a long tail; but, like all active herbivorous animals, it was probably timid, and with large and very mobile ears, like those of the stag, announcing the slightest approach of danger. Neither is there any doubt that its body was covered with short smooth hair; and consequently we only require to know its colour in order to paint it as it formerly existed in this country, where it has been dug up after so many ages." Fig. 155 is a reproduction from the design in outline with which Cuvier accompanied the description of this animal, which he classes with the