

and blacke, neither are they so much approved for the vse of physicke. They draw the greatest Bezoar stones from the Vicuñas, and they are grey or white, or of a dark greene, which are helde for the better. They esteem those of the Tarugas for the most excellent, whereof there are some reasonable bigge. They are commonly white, inclining to grey, and they have the filmes commonly bigger and thicker than the rest.

They finde the Bezoar stone equally both in male and female. All beasts that ingender it chew the cud, and commonly feede vpon the snow and rockes. The Indians reporte and teach by tradition from their fathers and Antients that in the province of Xauxa, and in other provinces of Peru, there are many herbs and venomous beasts, which poison the water and the pastures where they eate and drinke, and where they breathe; amidst which venomous hearbes there is one very well knowne of the Vicuña by a naturall instinct, and of other beasts that ingender the Bezoar stone which eate this hearb, and by meanes thereof they preserve themselves from the poisoned waters and pastures; and they say that of this hearb the stone is compounded in the stomacke, whence it drawes all the vertue against poyson and other woonderfull effects. This is the opinion and tradition of the Indians, discovered by men of great experience in the kingdome of Peru, which agrees with reason, and with that which Plinie reports of the mountaine goates, which are nourished and fed vpon poison without suffering any harme. The Indians being demaunded why the sheepe, kine, goates, and calves, such as are in Castille, have not the Bezoar stone, seeing that they feede on the same rockes, their answer is, that they beleeeve not that those beasts of Castille eate of that hearb, or that they have found the Bezoar stone in stags and fallow diere. This seemes to agree with our knowledge, for that in New Spaine they find the Bezoar stone, although there be no

Plin., lib.
x, c. 72.