

January 23.

Richard Owen, Esq., in the Chair.

A selection of the *Mammalia* procured by Captain Alexander during his recent journey into the country of the Damaras, on the South West Coast of Africa, was exhibited, and Mr. Ogilby directed the attention of the Society to the new and rare species which it contained.

Among the former were the *Herpestes melanurus* and *Cynictis Ogilbii* of Dr. Smith, the *Canis megalotis*, &c. The latter consisted of five new species, which Mr. Ogilby characterized as follows:

Macroscelides Alexandri. Fur long and fine, very dark blue-black at the root, but pointed with pale sandy-red above, and white beneath; ears pretty large, subelliptical, and red behind; whole under lip red; *tarsi* white; tail long, hairy, and very much attenuated: length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Macroscelides melanotis. Of a rather larger size than the former, with large head, dark brown or black ears, rather sandy under lip, dunnish white throat and *abdomen*, but pale reddish brown chest; colour of the upper parts much the same, but rather more ashy; *tarsi* light brown; tail mutilated: length 6 inches.

Chrysochloris Damarensis. Brown, with a silvery lustre both above and below; a yellowish white semicircle extends from eye to eye, under the chin, covering the whole of the cheeks, lips and lower jaw; a very marked character which, as well as the peculiar shade of the colour, readily distinguishes it from the new species described by Dr. Smith: no tail: length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Bathyergus Damarensis. A species intermediate in size between *Capensis* and *Hottentotus*: colour uniform reddish brown both above and below, with a large irregularly square white mark on the *occiput*, much larger than in *Hottentotus*, and another on each side of the neck just under the ears; these two meet on the throat, which is thus covered with dirty dunnish white; tail, a large flat stump covered with coarse reddish brown bristles, which stand out from it in all directions like *radii*; paws reddish brown: length $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail $\frac{1}{2}$ inch*.

Graphiurus elegans. Smaller than *Graph. Capensis* of Cuv., and of a purer and deeper ash colour above; the chin, throat, and cheeks are covered by a large patch of pure white, the rest of the under surface is mixed grey and ash, and all the *tarsi* and paws pure white: there is a mark of the same colour above and in front of each ear, and an oblique white stripe runs from the throat backwards over the

* This specimen, and the *Macroscelides melanotis*, were purchased for the British Museum, and the remaining three species for the Museum of the Zoological Society at the sale of Capt. Alexander's Collection, March 8, 1838.

shoulder, just in front of the arms; an intense black stripe passes from the commissure of the mouth, through the eye to the ear; the tail is covered with short coarse hair, pure white above, pure black below, and pencilled or shaded on each side; face greyish ash; whiskers abundant, and of a grey colour: length 5 inches; tail $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Mr. Ogilby observed, that the above species, and the one described by F. Cuvier, under the name of *Graph. Capensis*, appeared to him to differ in no respect from the genus *Myoxus*, and that in characterising the present animal, he merely made use of the name *Graphiurus* to indicate its relation to that originally described by Cuvier.

Mr. Ogilby likewise called the attention of the Society to certain peculiarities in the structure of the hand, in a living specimen of a new species of *Galago*, which he proposes to call *Otolienus Garnettii*, after the gentleman to whom he was indebted for the opportunity of describing it, and who has already conferred many advantages upon science by the introduction of numerous rare and new animals. The peculiarity of structure to which Mr. Ogilby alluded, consisted in the partially opposable character of the index finger of the fore hands, the fingers on these members being divided into two groups, composed of the thumb and index on one side, and the remaining three fingers on the other, as in the Koalas and Pseudocheirs. He remarked that the anterior index in all the inferior *Lemuridæ* was weak and powerless, and that it had the same tendency to divide with the thumb instead of the other fingers in the rest of the Galagos, as well as in the *Nycticebi*, *Microcebi*, *Cheirogalei*, and *Tarsii*; whilst in the Potto it was reduced almost to a tubercle. These genera consequently formed a little group analogous to the Koalas and Pseudocheirs among the *Didelphidæ*, being, exclusive of these animals, the only Cheiropeds in which this character occurs; and Mr. Ogilby regarded the fact as a strong confirmation of the truth of the relations which he had formerly pointed out as subsisting between these two families. The *Otolienus Garnettii* is of a uniform dark brown colour on every part both above and below; the ears large, black, and rather rounded; the tail long, cylindrical and woolly; and the size of the animal about that of a small *lemur*, or considerably larger than *Oto. Senegalensis*.

A communication was then read to the Meeting by Prof. Owen, entitled, "Notes on the Anatomy of the Nubian Giraffe."

These notes contain the general results of the anatomical examination of three specimens of the Giraffe, which Mr. Owen had been so fortunate as to have the opportunity of dissecting; one of the three (a male) died in the Society's Menagerie, and the remaining two (male and female) were in the possession of Mr. Cross of the Surrey Zoological Gardens.

The author agrees with Cuvier in considering that the external characters of the Giraffe clearly indicate its position in the order *Ruminantia*, to be between the genera *Cervus* and *Antilope*; the true bony material of its horns, which are covered by a *periosteum* defended by hairy integument, resembling the growing antlers of the Deer; but the



Ogilby, William. 1838. "On a Collection of Mammalia procured by Captain Alexander during his journey into the country of the Damaras, on the south-west coast of Africa." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 6, 5–6.

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