

June 27th, 1837.

Thomas Bell, Esq., in the Chair.

A Letter was read addressed to Mr. Gould, from Mr. Thomas Allis of York, in which the writer remarks that the sclerotic ring of the great *Podargus* does not present the slightest appearance of distinct plates, being simply a bony ring; the first instance in which Mr. Allis had observed this peculiarity.

A Letter was also read from His Excellency Hamilton Hamilton, Esq., Her Majesty's Minister at Rio, announcing the present of a *Chilian Eagle* for the Society's Gardens.

Mr. Gray exhibited a specimen of a *Paradoxurus* which had been presented to the Museum of the Society by the President, the Earl of Derby, and for which he proposed the specific name of *Derbianus*.

PARADOXURUS DERBIANUS. *Parad. pallidè fuscescenti-albus, rostri lateribus, strigâ superciliari, notâ in medio fronte et in utroque latere capitis super aures nigris, necnon strigâ ad utrumque latus colli in humeros obductâ, vittis tribus, quatuor, vel quinque transversis in dorso (ad latera angustioribus), annuloque ad basin caudæ, cum hujus dimidio postico. Artubus cinerescenti-fuscis.*

Hab. in Peninsulâ Malayanâ.

Mr. Gray also brought before the notice of the Meeting some Mammalia, which he had lately purchased for the British Museum from a collection made by the late Colonel Cobb in India, among which was an adult specimen of the *Once* of Buffon (Hist. Nat.), on which Schreber formed his *Felis uncia*, which has been regarded by Cuvier, Temminck, and most succeeding authors as a leopard, but which is a distinct species, easily known by the thickness of its fur, the paleness of its colour, the irregular form of the spots, and especially by the great length and thickness of the tail. Mr. Gray observed that a more detailed description of this animal was unnecessary, as it agreed in all particulars with the young specimen described by Buffon.

Two new species of *Sciuroptera*, which agree with the American species in colour, but differed from one another in the size, make, and form of the soles of the feet, were described as follows:—

SCIUROPTERA FIMBRIATA. *Sciur. vellere longo molli cinerescente, nigro variegato; pilis supernè plumbeis, complanatis, pallide fuscis, ad apicem nigris; facie albidâ, regione circumoculari nigrâ, mystacibus longissimis, nigris; mento corporeque*
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subtus albis, caudâ latâ, paululùm decrescente, fulvâ, pilis basilibus ad apicem nigris. Pedibus anticis latis, pollice minuto; pedibus posticis penicillâ latâ ad marginem externum indutis; plantis tuberculo oblongo parvo ad medium marginis externi, tuberculo antico, et tuberculis duobus inæqualibus internè ad partem posticam.

Hab. in Indiâ.

SCIUROPTERA TURNBULLI. *Sciur. vellere brevi, molli, nigrescente, pilis annulum albidum subterminalem exhibentibus; buccis, mento, corporeque subtus albis; regione circum-oculari, et mystacibus nigris; caudâ angustâ, decrescente, nigrescenti-fuscâ, subtus pallidiore; pedibus anticis parvulis, pollicibus minutis; pedibus posticis externè vix fimbriatis, plantis angustis sine tuberculis centralibus ad marginem externum, tuberculo attamen anteriori, necnon duobus inæqualibus posticis ad marginem internum.*

Long. $11\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; caudæ, 8 unc.

Hab. in Indiâ.

A new species of *Fox*, nearly allied to *Vulpes Bengalensis*, but evidently larger, Mr. Gray designated as *Vulpes xanthura*. In describing this species, he remarked, that it had a large gland, covered with rigid brown hair, on the upper part of the base of its tail, very distinctly marked; and that on looking at the tail of the several other species of this genus, as *V. Bengalensis*, *V. vulgaris*, *V. fulva*, and some others, a similar gland was easily recognisable, though it appeared to have been hitherto overlooked.

Mr. Ogilby afterwards characterised a new species of Gibbon (*Hylobates*), which had been presented to the Society many years ago, by the late General Hardwicke, and hitherto considered as the female of the Hoolock. A specimen of the latter species had been presented to the Society at the same time, and from the same locality; but their specific identity was sufficiently disproved, not only by the fact of both specimens being of the same sex, and from our being perfectly acquainted with both sexes of the Hoolock, but likewise by the marked difference of colour and external structure exhibited by the two animals. The greater height of the forehead and prominence of the nose in the new species were pointed out as alone sufficient to distinguish it from all the other Gibbons; whilst its ashy-brown colour and large black whiskers rendered it almost impossible to confound it with the Hoolock, which has fur of a shining black, and a pure white band across the forehead. Mr. Ogilby observed, that we have had two distinct instances of real Apes from the continental parts of India; and referred to various passages of Pliny, in which the Roman naturalist professed to describe different races of human beings from the remote provinces of India, whom he relates to have teeth like dogs, to live among trees, and to converse by frightful screams. These distorted accounts Mr. Ogilby conceives to have been founded upon



Gray, John Edward. 1837. "On a New Species of Paradoxure (*Paradoxurus Derbianus*), with remarks on some Mammalia recently purchased by the British Museum, and characters of the New Species." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 5, 67–68.

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