

May 22, 1866.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. P. L. Slater, Secretary to the Society, called the attention of the Meeting to a specimen of a rare American Monkey (*Pithecia leucocephala*), figured in Audebert's 'Singes,' pl. 6. fig. 2, lately added to the Society's Menagerie. The example in question had been presented to the Society on the 15th instant by Mr. W. H. Barton of the R. W. I. M. S. S. Wye, and was stated by that gentleman to have been obtained from the Buck-Indians of Demerara, by whom it had been brought from a locality about 300 miles distant in the interior of that country. Mr. Slater stated that this Monkey appeared to be of some rarity, there being no specimen of it in the National Collection.

Mr. W. H. Flower exhibited two specimens of the Common Death's-Head Moth (*Acherontia atropos*), taken on board the 'Hotspur,' East Indiaman, Captain Henry Toynbee, on her homeward voyage, in lat. $40^{\circ} 29' N.$, long. $15^{\circ} 00' W.$, 260 miles from the coast of Portugal, after an easterly gale: also a specimen of *Sphynx convolvuli*, ♀, which flew on board the same ship in lat. $12^{\circ} 09' N.$ and long. $21^{\circ} 17' W.$,—the prevailing winds being westerly and northerly.

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on some Young Specimens of Tortoises (*Testudo*).

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., &c.

The British Museum has lately received a number of specimens of Tortoises (*Testudinata*), preserved in spirits, which formerly formed part of Prof. Lidth de Jeude's Museum at Utrecht, in Holland.

They are interesting as containing series showing the growth of some of the species which are found in the Dutch colonies.

Among others there are two specimens of South American species of *Testudo*, proving that there must be two species, which differ in the coloration of the head of the animal and in the general colour of the shell, though the adult skulls have been regarded as all belonging to a single species.

This is an instance showing how important it is in distinguishing species to study the animal in all its ages. A species, as in this case, may be very distinct in its young state, and the characters which separate them appear to gradually disappear as the animal increases in age, so that the adult specimens of the two species cannot be distinguished.

TESTUDO DENTICULATA.

Thorax pale yellow; the margin sharp, with small deep notches. Nuchal plate none. Legs dark, yellow-spotted. Head pale brown; two plates over the nose oblong, large, yellow; crown yellow-varied,

with rather darker edges to the plates; temple with a large subtriangular oblong spot over the tympanum.

Hab. —.

The front and hinder lobes of the sternum broad; the sides of the front lobes straight and nearly parallel. The hinder vertebral plate is as wide as the three hinder marginal plates. The hinder lateral marginal plates are small; that is to say, they have the typical characters of the American *Testudines* called Gophers.

TESTUDO TABULATA.

Shell dark brown; the margin sharp, entire. Nuchal plate none. Head dark brown; the front of the crown with a large subtriangular spot with rounded angles, surrounded in front by many series of small oblong spots, the front spots over the nostrils being the largest; the hinder part of the crown with three series of small transverse spots, and with a series of somewhat similar-sized and -shaped spots on each side of the crown. The front and hinder lobes of the sternum narrowed at the end, with straight converging sides.

CHERSINA ANGULATA.

Head of young black brown above, with a small white spot over each nostril, a white streak over each eye to the temple, and a large round white spot on each side of the crown, with a streak behind, and sometimes confluent, with the hinder part of the spots rather diverging from each other on the occiput; side of the head dark, with a very narrow white streak from the nostril to the front edge of the eyes, and two narrow streaks on the temple; chin, throat, and sides of the neck pale, with some dark streaks.

Hab. Cape of Good Hope.

2. On the Species of Porcupines in the Gardens of the Society and in the British Museum. By Dr. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., F.L.S., &c.

(Plate XXXI.)

Having observed a living Porcupine in the Gardens sent from India by Mr. Arthur Grote, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., which is very unlike the Crested Porcupine of Europe, Africa, and India, and the Non-crested Porcupine of Java and Nepaul, I was induced to compare it with the specimens in the British Museum, and was rather surprised to find that it is nearly identical with a Porcupine which I noticed in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' 1847, p. 103, and which, as I was informed by Mr. Bartlett, was a hybrid between the female Crested Porcupine and a male of the Non-crested Porcupine of Java—more than one animal, the result of this mixture of the species, having been born in the Surrey Zoological Gardens.

I had no doubt of the accuracy of the account of the origin of the specimen which I received from Mr. Bartlett. But Mr. Bartlett



Gray, John Edward. 1866. "Notes on some young specimens of tortoises (Testudo)." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1866, 305–306.

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