

often interrupted, being far less distinct and regular than in the allied species *C. asmussi*. Abdomen covered with rhomboidal scales, equal in size to the smaller scales of the back, subimbricate, and in regular transverse rows. Anterior part of the fore leg clothed with diamond-shaped scales, becoming more imbricate, smaller, and much broader in proportion to their length on the foot and toes; on the latter, with the exception of the one or two large shields at the base of each claw, the scales are very much smaller than in *C. asmussi*. Scales below the hind leg much like those of the abdomen; on the outside they are small, with scattered spinose tubercles; toes much as in the fore foot, but the fourth toe has a well-marked fringe of pointed scales along the outer edge. Scales beneath the feet keeled, the keels on the fore foot longitudinal, on the hind foot transverse.

*Colour* in spirits isabelline, almost cream-colour, with dusky spots on the back caused by some of the enlarged scales being much darker than the remainder of the surface.

9. On two Species of *Herpestes*, and a Hare collected by Dr. F. Day in Sind. By W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received November 17, 1874.]

(Plate LXXXI.)

The fauna of Sind is still far from thoroughly known. The country is a desert, traversed by a fertile belt watered by the river Indus; and, with the exception of this belt, both the surface and fauna agree with those of Balúchistán and Southern Persia, and differ widely from those of the more fertile parts of India. In the better-watered tracts some peculiar species are found, which have not hitherto been observed elsewhere; but the number of such forms is very small.

The birds of Sind have been described by Mr. Hume ('Stray Feathers,' vol. i.), and some of the reptiles by the late Dr. Stoliczka, 'Proc. A. S. B., 1872, p. 85. The species noted in the paper last-mentioned, and several of those included in Mr. Hume's list, were collected by Dr. Day. The same naturalist has placed in my hands for description skins of a Hare and of two Ichneumons obtained by him near Sakhar, all of which he considers new to the fauna of India. After examining the skins in question, I agree in this view, one of the Ichneumons being, in my opinion, identical with a form already described from Mesopotamia, whilst the other two mammals I look upon as undescribed.

*HERPESTES FERRUGINEUS*, sp. nov. (Plate LXXXI.)

*H. affinis* *H. griseo*, sed colore ferrugineo albo nec griseo mixto facile distinguendus. Pili ex annulis rufis cum albis alternantibus compositi, ad basin sordide rufescentes, subtus pallidiores, apicem caudæ versus longiusculi, omnino ferruginei.

*Hab.* haud procul ab urbe Larkhana, in provincia Sind.

General colour ferruginous, minutely speckled and mixed with white. Fur moderately fine. Hairs of the back long, dull, rufes-



cent at the base, and the remaining portion composed of short alternating rings of white and ferruginous, there being sometimes as many as six alternations in each hair, the extreme tips being ferruginous. On the lower parts the colour is a little paler, and the rings on the hairs are less distinct; upper portions of the feet rather darker red, soles of feet and lower part of tarsus bare. The hair on the tail is long; and the white rings on the hairs gradually disappear backwards, the tip being entirely red.

Dimensions (from a dried skin and, in consequence, only approximate), head and body 15 inches; tail (vertebræ not preserved) to end of hairs the same. The hairs on the hinder part of the back are fully  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. Tarsus and hind foot to end of claws 2·8 in.

In general form this Mongoose closely resembles *H. griseus*\*, Geoffr., so much so that I was at first doubtful whether it was more than a rufous variety of it. But not only is the colour very distinct, but the skull shows some important differences. The orbit is incomplete behind; this is certainly the case in the young of *H. griseus*, but not to the same extent as in *H. ferrugineus*. The nasal bones are longer in *H. griseus*, their posterior termination being behind a line connecting the anterior edges of the orbits in the skull, whereas in the new species the nasals terminate posteriorly in front of the same line. The breadth across the frontal region immediately behind the postorbital processes is considerably less in *H. griseus*, and the auditory bullæ are differently shaped.

The skull, extracted from the skin of *H. ferrugineus*, measures:—

	inches.
Length from upper edge of foramen magnum to anterior termination of intermaxillary bone . . . . .	2·7
Left nasal bones along the suture between them ..	0·54
Breadth across widest part of zygomatic arches ..	1·38
Breadth of frontal region where narrowest (behind postorbital processes).....	0·62
Length of lower jaw from the angle to the anterior alveolar margin . . . . .	1·85

But a single specimen of this interesting new form has been obtained.

H. PERSICUS, Gray, P. Z. S. 1854, p. 554; Cat. Carn. &c. Mamm. Brit. Mus. 1869, p. 151.

Brownish grey above, very minutely intermixed with greyish white; brownish white, almost isabelline, below. Fur rather soft; hairs rather short, being rather more than half an inch long in the middle of the back, blackish at the extreme base, then very light brown for some distance, followed by a dark brown, and this again by a pale whitish ring, the extreme tip of each hair being dark brown. All the hairs of the tail are particoloured and ringed; there is no tip of any uniform colour.

\* It appears highly probable that this is *Viverra ichneumon*, var.  $\beta$ , of Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 63; *Viverra mungo*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. p. 84.



Length from nose to end of tail in two specimens about 20 inches, tail to end of hairs 10; tarsus and hind foot to end of claws 1.75. The tarsus is not naked below.

In the skull the bony orbit is complete behind, as already mentioned by Gray.

I have compared both skins and skull of this Mongoose with the types in the British Museum, and they agree admirably. The types in question were brought by Mr. Loftus from Mahamrah, in Khúzistán, the Persian province bordering on the estuary of the united Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Two specimens of *H. persicus* were killed by Dr. Day on the right bank of the Indus, about a mile above Sakhar, in a grove of palm-trees.

LEPUS DAYANUS, sp. nov.

*L. affinis* *L. ruficaudato*, sed pelle mollissima facile distinguendus. Cauda insuper fusca, haud nigra. Dorsum ex fusco griseum cum nigro mixtum, pilis ad basin albidis, inde nigris, apices versus isabellinis, apicibus ipsis nigris. Aures longiusculæ, latæ, postice subnudæ, antice et præsertim ad marginem anteriorem magis pilosæ, ad apices fusco-nigræ, postice isabellino limbatae, limbo apicem versus latiore. Mystaces nigræ et albæ.

*Hab.* in provinciâ Indicâ Sind dictâ, haud procul ab urbe Sakhar, ad ripas Indi fluminis.

Colour on the back light brown, much mixed with black, hairs at the base nearly white, then black, towards the ends pale brown, the tips being black, on the sides of the body the black gradually disappears; belly, as usual, white; inner surface of the thighs, sides, and lower part of tail the same; upper part of tail brown, the hairs being dusky and almost black at the base, with brown tips; sides and lower part of neck as far back as the fore legs and the limbs pale rufous; soles of feet a little darker; back of neck behind the ears the same. The ears are broad and rather long, apparently slightly exceeding those of *L. ruficaudatus*, both in length and breadth; they are nearly naked on the greater part of their surface, both inside and out. The anterior portion of the outer surface is covered with short brown hairs mixed with black, the margin itself having a fringe of longer hairs; and the extreme hinder margin is covered with very short whitish hairs. The tips, too, are covered outside with dark brown hair, nearly black inside, near the edge only with yellowish buff. The hair on the posterior portion of the outer surface near the base of the ears is whitish.

This Hare is distinguished from *L. ruficaudatus* by being rather smaller, by the hair being longer and very much finer, with, so far as can be judged by the specimen examined, much longer black tips to the hairs on the back. The tail in *L. ruficaudatus* is rufous brown above, the hairs being the same colour at their base, whereas in the present species it is dusky brown above, and the hairs are blackish at the base. The skulls of the two species exhibit the following differences:—In *L. ruficaudatus* the nasal bones are longer



and much more convex anteriorly, and the posterior prolongation of the postorbital process is not in contact with the skull behind, whereas in *L. dayanus* this prolongation joins the skull so as to leave a foramen behind the postorbital process, as in *L. mediterraneus*, which has on this ground alone been considered generically distinct from other Hares by Dr. Gray (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1867, ser. 3. xx. p. 222). In the skull of *L. dayanus* which I have examined, the postorbital process is not anchylosed with the frontals behind the foramen; but it may very probably be so in older animals.

All the teeth are smaller than in *L. ruficaudatus*; and the upper incisors appear very indistinctly grooved in the new species, and, so far as I can judge, never have the raised ridge along the front part of their inner edge, so conspicuous in old skulls of *L. ruficaudatus*.

The measurements of a dried skin can only be approximative.

The whole length from the nose to the rump appears to be about 18 inches. The ears are about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long from the orifice to tip, and nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broad; in fresh specimens they would be 5 inches long at least. The tarsus and hind foot to the end of the claws measure just 4 inches: this measurement, of course, would be the same in the living animal; and I find it constant in three specimens. The skull extracted is imperfect behind; the breadth across the hinder and broadest part of the zygomatic arches is 1.55 in. across the frontal bones where narrowest, between the foramina behind the postorbital processes 0.47; length of suture between the nasal bones 1.1.

This species is apparently the common Hare of Sind. Dr. Day has brought several skins from near Sakhar.

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December 1, 1874.

Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary made the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during November 1874:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November was 79; of which 4 were by birth, 38 by presentation, 18 by purchase, 1 received in exchange, and 18 received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 104.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. An example of Humboldt's Saki (*Pithecia monachus*), purchased November 2nd. Of this rare American Monkey we have previously received only one living specimen, which was figured and described by Prof. Flower, P. Z. S. 1862, p. 326.

2. A fine male of the larger form of the Patas Monkey (*Cercopithecus ruber*?), presented by Dr. R. F. Mayne, on the 3rd November. Dr. Mayne, in reply to inquiries, tells me that this monkey was purchased at Lagos, West Africa, where he informs me this species is



known as the King Monkey, but is rare. This form of the Patas, of which we have now two living specimens, nearly resembles the Nisnas Monkey (*C. pyrrhonotus*) except in having a black nose. It seems to me quite distinct from the smaller form, which we generally receive as the Patas, and requires further examination.

3. Three Night-Parrots (*Stringops habroptilus*), purchased November 3rd. Two of these appear to be a pair, agree well together, and appear likely to do well; the third, I regret to say, we have already lost.

4. A male Muntjac (*Cervulus*), purchased November 6th of the Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris. This animal is from the French colony of Saigon, and appears to show that the form inhabiting this district is nearly allied to the true *C. muntjac*. I propose to speak of it more fully in some notes which I have now in preparation upon the *Cervuli* living in the Society's Gardens.

5. Eighteen Lancelets (*Amphioxus lanceolatus*), presented Nov. 14th by the Directors of the Zoological Station, Naples, being the first examples of this "invertebrate vertebrate" that have yet reached the Society's Fish-house.

6. A pair of Muntjacs (*Cervulus*, sp. inc.), from Formosa, presented by Mr. W. P. Galton, November 17th. Of these I shall speak more fully in the paper mentioned above which I have in preparation.

7. Two Agoutis from St. Lucia, West Indies, presented by Mr. Neville Holland, November 24th.

In August 1868 we received from Mr. G. H. Hawtayne, of St. Vincent, West Indies, a pair of Agoutis which are referred, in the 'Revised List of Vertebrates' (p. 76), to the Acouchy (*Dasyprocta acouchy*). The present animals from St. Lucia are evidently of the same species, as I find by comparing them with one of the St.-Vincent specimens, which has been preserved for examination. But they are certainly not referable to *D. acouchy*, to which I must have referred the first specimen, simply because Mr. Waterhouse says that that is the species found in the West-India Islands\*. They belong, on the contrary, to the short and naked-tailed group of *Dasyprocta* allied to *D. aguti*, and seem most like *D. punctata* of Central America†, but are smaller in size and much darker in colour. The fur is generally black minutely grizzled with yellow; but the crest at the back of the head and long hair on the hinder part of the back are of a nearly uniform black.

The total length of the body in the specimen from St. Vincent is about 14 inches.

Dr. Gray has described a *Dasyprocta albida* from St. Vincent, concerning which it is sufficient to refer to Mr. Waterhouse's observations (Mamm. ii. p. 397). Even if this name could be shown to have

\* Nat. Hist. Mamm. ii. p. 392.

† Gray, Ann. N. H. x. p. 264 (1862), et Zool. Sulphur, pl. 15. Mr. Waterhouse unites this to the Brazilian *D. azaræ*; but I am not sure that this is correct. We have hitherto referred the examples of this form received from Central America to *D. cristata*; but this is certainly erroneous.



been based on an albino variety of the present animal, it would be altogether inappropriate to the normal form. I therefore propose for the present to call the West-Indian species *Dasyprocta antillensis* (Plate LXXXII.), and hope to be able to give a more complete account of it on a future occasion.

8. An Orange-bellied Helictis (*Helictis subaurantiaca*, Swinh.), purchased of a dealer, November 26th. This little-known carnivore was described and figured by Mr. Swinhoe in our 'Proceedings' in 1862 (P. Z. S. 1862, p. 355, pl. xlv.), from Formosan specimens. I have never before seen a living specimen of the form, which is obviously nearly allied to *Arctonyx*, and also somewhat resembles in external appearance *Taxidea americana*, of both of which we have living examples now in the Gardens.

It seems to me questionable whether *H. subaurantiaca* is really specifically distinct from *H. moschata*, Gray\*; but if there are two Chinese species, ours belongs to the former. I may remark that I believe *Helictis personata* of Pegu†, which is united to *Helictis moschata* by Dr. Gray (Cat. Carn. Mamm. p. 142), to be a very distinct species.

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The following extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by the Rev. S. J. Whitmee, C.M.Z.S., dated Samoa, South Pacific, July 24th, 1874:—

"I am forwarding to Sydney, to the care of Dr. Bennett, a couple of Doves, *Ptilonopus fasciatus* and *Phlegænas stairi* (?), and a pair of Fruit-bats of the species described by Mr. E. R. Alston, at the meeting of the Society on January 20th last, as *Pteropus whitmeei*.

"These Dr. Bennett will forward to England for the Society should they survive the voyage. As the Bat appears to belong to a new species, you will doubtless be glad to have a pair in the Gardens.

"This *Pteropus* is very common in Samoa. The usual native name for it is *Pea'* (= *Peha*). But as *Pea'* is the name of some chiefs, this is often changed, according to the well-known Polynesian custom, into *Manu lagi* (= *Manu langi*), which means the animal of the heavens. This name is given to it on account of its mode of flight over the tops of the trees at a considerable height. It is chiefly nocturnal in its habits, but may very frequently be seen even at midday in the bush gracefully sailing high in the heavens with a very slow and regular flap of the wings.

"I once saw a number together which I estimated at over a thousand. I was visiting an extinct crater in the island of Savaii, the sides of which are perpendicular. The bottom of the crater is full of large trees, the tops of which are about 200 feet below its upper edge. These trees seem to be a favourite resort of the Bats; and at the time of my visit, 5 o'clock P.M., they had come out to disport themselves in the cool of the evening.

"The *Pteropus* is somewhat of a pest at the time of the bread-fruit

\* See Mr. Swinhoe's remarks, P. Z. S. 1870, p. 623.

† *Melogale personata*, Geoffr. St.-Hilaire, Bélanger's Voy. Mamm. pl. 4.





J. Smit lith.

M & N Hazinart imp

DASYPROCTA ANTILLENSIS.









Blanford, W. T. 1874. "On two Species of Herpestes, and a Hare collected by Dr. F. Day in Sind." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1874, 661–668. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1874.tb02526.x>.

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