



## XXXIII.—Description of a new species of Genetta, and of two species of Birds from Western Africa

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*b*, with small ant-orbital opening.

• with rootless molars  $\frac{5-5}{4-4}$  ..... *Aplodontia*.

[Aberrant forms of *Sciuridæ*?]

with rootless molars  $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$ .

1. Folds of enamel to the molars simple ..... *Ascomys*.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ complicated..... *Castor*.

Family 2. MYOXIDÆ. Genera: *Myoxus*, *Eliomys*, *Muscardinus*, and *Graphiurus*.

Family 3. DIPRIDÆ†. Genera: *Dipus*, *Alactaga*, and *Meriones*.

Family 4. MURIDÆ. Genera: *Gerbillus*, *Psammomys*, *Mus*, *Hesperomys*, *Dendromys*, *Phloeomys*, *Cricetomys*, *Cricetus*, *Euryotis*, *Hapalotis*, *Reithrodon*, *Sigmodon*, and *Neotoma*.

Subfamily 1. *Aspalomyina*. Genera: *Rhizomys*, *Aspalomys*, and *Heterocephalus*.

Subfamily 2. *Arvicolina*. Genera: *Ondatra*, *Arvicola*, and *Lemmus*.

[To be continued.]

XXXIII.—Description of a new species of *Genetta*, and of two species of Birds from Western Africa. By T. R. H. THOMSON, Esq., R.N., Surgeon of the late African Expedition.

AMONG the various specimens of natural productions which I collected during the late expedition is a new species of *Genetta*, differing very remarkably in colouring from the other species of this African genus. I received it from the Bobys or natives of the island, and they had skinned it through the mouth without making any other incision in the skin.

I have taken the opportunity of naming the *Genetta* after my friend Dr. John Richardson, the Inspector of the Naval Hospital at Haslar, so well known for his highly scientific acquirements, and so much esteemed in the naval service by all his medical brethren.

I may mention, from its being interesting as showing the wide geographic range of the animal, that I have brought home with me a large kind of cuff or arm-shield formed of the skin of *Colobus Guereza* of Rüppell, which has hitherto only been found in Abyssinia, where, according to Peirce, as quoted in the 'Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum,' the skin is used for the same purpose. The cuff, which consists of the greater part of the back with the white stripe, differs from Dr. Rüppell's specimen of the animal in the British

† To attain uniformity of system,—taking the name of the family from one of the principal genera it contains,—I have thought it desirable to substitute the name *Dipoditæ* for *Gerboideæ*.

Museum, in the white band being considerably broader, and not furnished with quite such long hair.

*Genetta Richardsonii*, Richardson's Genette.—Rich fulvous; three streaks on the nape, numerous unequal spots on the back, side of the neck, sides and limbs, and twelve bands on the tail black; nose gray; feet grayish fulvous, scarcely spotted; legs, cheeks, throat, middle of the chest and belly and the inner side of the limbs brighter fulvous, especially on the hinder part of the abdomen; whiskers black, lower ones whitish; the pad of the toes is hairy; hair of the middle toes fulvous, of the rest gray; the central pad of all the feet bald, and the hinder foot with a narrow bald line extending nearly to the heel, like the typical *Genetta*.

Length, body and head,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.* Fernando Po.

I have sent the specimen of the *Genetta* and the fragment of the skin of the *Guereza* to the British Museum collection. I shall now proceed to describe two birds which appear to be new.

*Tchitrea atrochalybeia*. Deep shining steel-black, with the base of each feather dull black; quills and tail black, margined exteriorly with steel-black.

Length, total,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; wing,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; tail, middle feather,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ; the next exterior one,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ .

*Hab.* Fernando Po.

*Porphyrio Alleni*. Head and neck black tinged with blue; back and wings greenish olive, tinged on the rump with bluish black; beneath the body indigo-blue; bill crimson; frontlet blue; legs and toes yellow.

Length, total,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches; bill,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ; wing  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi, 2 inches and 1 line.

*Hab.* W. Africa, Idda, near the confluence of the river.

Mr. Gray, who kindly assisted me in determining these species, informs me, that besides the above, there has been recorded as found in Fernando Po the following species of Mammalia and Reptiles:—*Colobus Pennanti*?, *C. Satanas*, *Cercopithecus Martini*, *C. erythrotis*, *Galago Alleni*, *Rhinolophus Landeri*, *Genetta Poensis*, *Lutra Poensis*, *Mus Alleni*, *Antelope Ogilbii*, *Chameleo Oweni (tricornis)*, *Ch. cristatus* and *C. Bibronii*, and *Crocodilus Leptorhynchus*.

There are doubtless several others, and it is to be remarked that most of the animals found in the islands are different species to those found on the continent.

I have several new species of squirrels, especially a flying squirrel with scales under the tail; and a new species of antelope, and several new species of birds, which it is my inten-

tion to describe as soon as my packages arrive from Plymouth. These, with those above described, will be deposited in the British Museum; the fish which I collected I have sent to Dr. Richardson at Haslar.

October 15, 1842.

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#### XXXIV.—*Information respecting Scientific Travellers.*

MR. FORBES.

A FRIEND in Belfast informs us that he has received a letter from Mr. Forbes, dated Smyrna, H.M.S. Beacon, Sept. 9, 1842, in which he says, that the grant allocated by the British Association for dredging in the Red Sea "determines me to take Egypt on my way back, and I shall start for Alexandria soon, regulating my movements so as to be in England during the early part of January." It would seem to be time for him to try new ground, as he observes, "Though at work every day, I now so seldom get any species of the Mollusca, Radiata, or Fish which I have not already, that it seems as if I had pretty nearly got through the treasures of the Egean." He speaks of his fever having interfered sadly with his botanical hopes, but that he had previously collected in Lycia 800 species of Phænogamic plants, and remarked many interesting facts connected with a number of them, more especially with reference to their distribution. As he is silent respecting his health, it may be presumed that he was at the date of his letter perfectly recovered.

J. LINDEN.

The young Belgian naturalist and collector, J. Linden, has recently undertaken a second journey into South America, and intelligence of his present movements has been received to the date of April 1842, with an announcement of the despatch of his first consignment of dried plants. These have since arrived in the best possible condition, and contain some which are highly interesting (a large proportion of them ferns), and they are already in the hands of his subscribers. The sets contain 170 species. Additional subscribers are invited to join those who have already engaged for these plants; and, in order to judge for themselves, botanists who wish to do so can have the opportunity now of inspecting this series just distributed. Each plant is accompanied by a printed and numbered label. The price is fixed at 2*l.* per hundred plants, and there are no extra charges for expense of freight, &c., if application be made direct to M. Linden's London agent.

M. Linden writes thus:—"After many difficulties and a most protracted and stormy passage, I am at length arrived at this first stage of my intended Colombian expedition (*viz.* La Guayra). Before striking inland from the coast, I intend to investigate the chain of mountains which border these shores, profiting by the time of year (*winter*), this being the only season when one can with safety traverse these very unhealthy coasts."