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On: 01 January 2015, At: 05:13

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales

Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office:

Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 1

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

[http://
www.tandfonline.com/loi/
tnah07](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07)

XXIII.—Observations upon some recent communications of Mr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to the Annals of Natural History; with descriptions of two new Kangaroos from

Van Diemen's land

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Published online: 15 Mar
2010.

To cite this article: W. Ogilby Esq. M.A. F.R.A.S. F.L.S. F.G.S. F.Z.S. (1838) XXIII.—Observations upon some recent communications of Mr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to the Annals of Natural History; with descriptions of two new Kangaroos from Van Diemen's land, Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 1, 1:3, 216-221, DOI: [10.1080/00222933809512271](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933809512271)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222933809512271>

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—*Zanthoxylum Novæ Zelandiæ*. *A. Rich. Fl. Nov.* p. 291. t. 33.—Porokiwiri of the Islanders. *R. Cunningham*.

New Zealand (Middle Island).—1773, *G. Forster*. (Northern Island), a tree twenty-five feet high, frequent on the banks of the Kana-Kana and other rivers at the Bay of Islands, Wangaroa, &c.—1826, *A. Cunningham*.—1834, *R. Cunningham*.

337. *H. scabra*, foliis elliptico-ovatis vel ovato-lanceolatis distanter serratis utrinque ramulisque scabris, corymbis axillaribus strigoso-pilosis. *Spreng.? conf. Steud. Nomencl. Bot.* p. 390.

New Zealand (Northern Island), a tree thirty feet high, Keri-Keri river, Bay of Islands.—1826, *Allan Cunningham*.

4. BROUSSONETIA, *Vent. tab.* 3. p. 567.

338. *B. papyrifera*. *Duham. Arb.* ii. xvi. t. 5. *Willd. Sp. Pl.* 4. p. 743. *Andr. Repos.* t. 480.—*Morus papyrifera*. *L. Forst. Prodr.* n. 347.

New Zealand, in the northern parts of the Northern Island.—1769, *Cook*.

After enumerating certain plants that he observed in cultivation among the New Zealanders, on his first visit in 1769, Capt. Cook adds, "We also found the Chinese *Paper Mulberry Tree*, the same as that of which the inhabitants of the South Sea Islands make their cloth; but it was scarce, and only used to wear as an ornament in the holes which they make in their ears."—*Cook's First Voyage*, iii. p. 443.

Obs. An verè indigena?

[To be continued.]

XXIII.—*Observations upon some recent Communications of Mr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to the Annals of Natural History; with Descriptions of two New Kangaroos from Van Diemen's Land.* By W. OGILBY, Esq., M.A., F.R.A.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.Z.S., &c.

IN the first number of the *Annals of Natural History*, p. 27, Mr. Gray has given a notice of two skins of an animal originally described by the late Mr. Bennett, but which that gentleman refrained from naming, because from the imperfect nature of the materials at his disposal, he was not certain whether it was a *Zebra* or an *Antelope*. Mr. Bennett's own opinion originally was that the animal in question belonged to the genus *Equus*; but the researches which, as most zoologists know, I have myself prosecuted for the last six years on the subject of the *Ruminantia*, enabled me to arrive at a more just conclusion, and to determine both the characters and affinities of this beautiful quadruped. This result I communicated to Mr. Bennett, expressly stating to him my conviction that it was

closely allied to the Guib and Boshbok (*Antilope scripta* and *sylvatica*), and though he naturally placed less confidence in my induction than I did myself, it nevertheless occasioned him to modify his opinion, and to think, as he himself observes, (Proc. Com. Sci. Zool. Soc. ii. 123.) after expressly stating his reasons for believing it to be a species of Zebra, that "it might not improbably belong to some species of Antelope." Four years after Mr. Bennett's notice, viz. in Nov. 1836, having occasion to describe some new and rare Antelopes at a meeting of the Zoological Society, at which Mr. Gray was present and took part in the proceedings of the evening upon the subject of my communication, I took the opportunity of detailing at length my opinions with regard to the characters and relations of the animal in question, to which I gave the name of *Antilope Doria*, and announced its true habitat to be the western coast of Africa, and not Algoa Bay as supposed by Mr. Bennett. A short abstract of these observations will be found in the Zool. Proc. iv. 121.

I have been induced to detail this history of the *Antilope Doria* up to the period of Mr. Gray's notice, simply for the purpose of showing that whatever little merit can result from having pointed out the characters and affinities of this beautiful animal, and consequently the right of naming it, belong neither to Mr. Bennett nor Mr. Gray. The former gentleman was too just to claim such a right; the latter, though he has taken the liberty of exercising it, has still less pretensions; for not only has he added nothing new to the history and description of the animal, but his observations are even fewer and less important than those which I have long since published. That I have just cause of complaint I cannot help thinking, when I remember that Mr. Gray took part in the proceedings of the meeting when my observations were made and my name given; and that he must be well acquainted with the published account of those "Proceedings" containing both the name and the observations, having been officially engaged in their revision; and finally, that the original skin has been long exhibited, *with my name attached*, in the Museum of the Zoological Society, to which he is a frequent visitor, besides being a member of the Museum Committee. It was my intention to have noticed this subject in the last Number of the Annals, but I was prevented from doing so by a communication from Mr. Gray, of which the following is an extract: "He also takes the opportunity of informing Mr. Ogilby that it is his (intention?) to correct the error into which he has fallen with respect to the *Antilope Doria* in the next Number of the Annals." This promise Mr. Gray has not fulfilled; but instead of the promised correction the

second Number of the 'Annals' contains a favour of another and very different description on the part of Mr. Gray, which I shall now briefly notice.

On the 28th of last November I exhibited and described at the Zoological Society a new species of Phalanger, from the island of Van Diemen's Land, which I proposed to call *Phalangista Viverrina*, and which, I observed, was the species figured in Cook's Voyages, and hitherto confounded with the *Phalangista Cookii* of M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire. I stated moreover that I had been long acquainted with the characters of the animal, and its specific distinction from the real *Phalangista Cookii*, from a specimen in the British Museum, in which establishment it was confounded with that species, but that I refrained from noticing it, as well from a point of delicacy as because I was unacquainted with its precise habitat. Mr. Gray was present at the meeting in question, and took a very prominent part in the proceedings of the evening. With the exception of one or two mistakes, he has in the last Number of the Annals reproduced the observations which I made on that occasion almost word for word, appropriating them to himself, without any allusion to my communication, and proposing a new name of his own (*P. Banksii*), not for the new species, but for the old *Phalangista Cookii*, reserving the latter name most improperly for the new species, which had already been named by me *Viverrina*, avoiding the charge of suppressing my name. Mr. Gray's observations manifestly show that at the time they were written he was not aware that the Van Diemen's Land species was the animal so long possessed by the British Museum, as he regrets that no specimen was sent by Mr. Gunn, and I presume that he had either forgotten this part of my observations or refreshed his memory from the minute book of the Zoological Society, in which a very brief abstract only of them is given: yet I observe that he has since had the label "*Hepoona Cookii*, Van Diemen's Land," attached to the animal in the collection of the Museum, having, I suppose, become acquainted with the characters of the animal from the specimens of both species in the Museum of the Zoological Society. This is but a supposition on my part; but it cannot be far from the truth, as the two species have been exhibited with my names in the Zoological Society's collection ever since the period of my observations, and Mr. Gray's paper plainly shows that he had no original knowledge of their specific distinction. Mr. Gray is at considerable pains to show that the Van Diemen's Land species, *which is the new one*, and to which I gave the name of *P. Viverrina*, should be called *P. Cookii*, and that *the old one which has always passed by that name*

hitherto, is that which should have a new name, and he accordingly proposes for it the name of *P. Banksii**. The cause of Mr. Gray's anxiety in this matter may perhaps easily be divined; but of this the reader will judge. The *P. Cookii* of all writers refers to the continental species, of which there are specimens at Paris, Leyden, Frankfort, &c.; and Mr. Gray's attempt to transfer the name to the Van Diemen's Land species, merely because a plate in Cook's Voyage has been confounded with it, is as productive of confusion as it is disingenuous. His proposed generic name of *Hepoona* is equally unhappy; it is really the native name of a *Petaurist*, and not at all of a *Phalanger* as erroneously supposed by Mr. Gray: besides which, the group which he thus designates is one which I first pointed out and characterised in March 1836, under the name of *Pseudocheirus*. The wallaby kangaroo, which Mr. Gray has likewise renamed (*H. Tasmanei*), is the same species which I had previously described at the Zoological Society under the name of *Macropus rufiventer*, and of which I have here given a more detailed description.

I regret having been obliged to make these statements, and sincerely hope that Mr. Gray will spare me the trouble of doing so in future.

I have been much pleased with Mr. Gunn's communication, which contains much valuable information upon the mammals of Van Diemen's Land; and it is therefore with real satisfaction that I have it in my power to supply one of its very few deficiencies, by the following descriptions of two of the species of kangaroos there mentioned. (p. 105.)

Macropus (Halmaturus) fruticus, the Brush Kangaroo.—Head, back, croup, and outer surface of the arms and thighs clear russet brown, slightly grizzled with silvery grey, the fur being of a slaty brown colour at the root, and russet brown at the tip, long, copious and thick; the face from the eyes down, the lips and chin are deep uniform brown, as are likewise the paws both fore and hind, but the whole of the tarsus and hind legs are of a clear light grey colour,

* Mr. Gray is evidently wrong in this matter. He cannot take away the name of *P. Cookii* from the *animal* to give it to a *mere picture*, merely because the original describers made the mistake of referring to it. Cook discovered both species and figured one: the *unfigured* species has been long known and described under Cook's name; the *figured* species was first described by myself last November by the name of *P. Viverrina*: in proposing to change the names of both species Mr. Gray commits not only a private wrong with regard to me, but a great public injury both to science and the original describers of *P. Cookii*, by the confusion which he would introduce into the nomenclature.

and form in this respect a striking contrast to the sombre hue of the toes ; the under surface of the tarsus is naked and callous ; the belly and under parts of the body are very light hoary grey, the fur here being equally long and dense as above, and of the same deep slaty brown colour at base, but with a long and conspicuous hoary point ; the tail of middling size, attenuated, dirty yellowish grey, with a small, brown, obscurely tufted tip, and very nearly naked beneath, the hair being worn short and bristly on the terminal half ; the ears pretty large, rounded, with dirty white hair about the edges, within, densely covered with long soft hair without, grizzled at the base, but dark brown with a shade of russet on the terminal two thirds. The two front incisors larger than the lateral, separate at the base, converging at the point ; the external lateral incisor twice the size of the middle one, and divided in the proportion of about 2 : 3 by a vertical duplicature on the outer face, giving the tooth at first sight the appearance of being double. The claw of the great hind toe is short, round, and blunt, as in *M. penicillatus* ; and *M. fruticus* is the only kangaroo besides that species in which I have noticed this character. Length, 2 ft. 9 in. ; tail, 1 ft. 10 in. ; head, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. ; ear, 3 in. ; tarsus to the origin of the great claw, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Macropus (Halmaturus) rufiventer, the Wallabee of Van Diemen's Land.—This is a very different species from the Wallabee of New South Wales, (*M. Ualubatus*,) being smaller, and of a more reddish brown colour. It is considerably smaller than the last species (*M. fruticus*), but has similar incisors, except that the middle pair are not proportionally longer or larger than the lateral, and the duplicature of the external so small as to be apparent only on the posterior face, dividing the tooth in the proportion of about 1 : 3 ; this tooth is itself of smaller dimensions comparatively speaking than its analogue in *M. fruticus*. The general colour of *M. rufiventer* is greyish brown above, considerably darker than the wild rabbit, and deeply shaded on the back and croup with pure black hairs, which, in certain lights, give these parts a perfectly black shade ; the paws and outer face of the fore legs are of the same colour ; the tarsus and hind legs brown ; the chin, throat, belly, and abdomen, sandy red, more or less intense in different specimens ; ears yellowish red within, black or very dark brown on the outside ; tail short, rather darker than the body above, dirty yellowish on the sides, naked and granulated for two thirds of its length on the under surface ; claws long and pointed ; nose naked ; length of the body, 2 ft. ; tail, 1 ft. 2 in. ; head to root of ear, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. : ear, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. ; tarsus to great claw, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. First described before the Zoological Society, February

28th, 1838, under the name here given: afterwards by Mr. Gray under the name of *H. Tasmanei* (vide Ann. Nat. Hist. vol. i. p. 108. for April 1st, 1838). Mr. Gray's description of this animal is manifestly independent of mine, since his paper, though only published on the 1st of April, is dated February 10. My own knowledge, both of this species and *M. fruticus*, dates from November last, when I had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them through the kindness of Mr. Gould: the question between us, therefore, on this point is merely one of precedence.*

XXIV.—Information respecting Botanical Travellers.

THE following interesting communication has been received from George Bentham, Esq., Secretary to the Horticultural Society, &c.

M. Theodor Kotschy, a botanical collector from Vienna, joined as botanist an expedition of Austrian geologists sent to search for useful fossils in the domain of the Viceroy of Egypt. With this expedition he touched at Greece in the year 1836, from thence went to Cairo, and after a very short stay in Syria, he spent two of the most favourable summer months of that year in the little-known chain of the Taurus. From this country he transmitted to Vienna a considerable collection of dried plants, containing many species entirely new, and many others only known by the collections of Tournefort and other older botanists, and only now to be found in a very few herbaria.

From Syria M. Kotschy proceeded in 1837 to Nubia and Abyssinia, and at the time the last news were received from him at Vienna, he was in the most southern parts of Cordofan and Darfour, between 10° and 11° N. lat., and was expecting, after the rainy season, to penetrate still further south. He represents the vegetation of these countries as in the highest degree remarkable and imposing. The expedition had already met with several troops of elephants and of giraffes, and Mr. Kotschy also mentions some stems of *Adansonia* of an enormous size. It is probable he may be mistaken as to the iden-

* Having intimated to Mr. Gray the subject of Mr. Ogilby's communication, we have received from him the following note, which he had intended to send us last month, but had mislaid.—EDIT.

Antelope Zebra. I find that Mr. Ogilby, in a notice of some other Antelopes, in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1836, p. 121, had previously given the name of *Antelope Doria* to the skins of this animal noticed by Mr. Bennett; but as he gives no additional particulars, and as the name is only incidentally mentioned, and does not even occur in the index of the volume, I had overlooked it.—J. E. GRAY.