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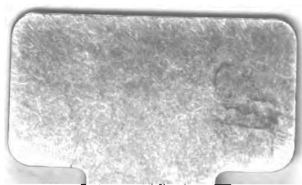
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DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF THE

South African
MUSEUM.


PART I.

MAMMALIA.



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A
DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM:

BY
ANDREW SMITH, M.D. M.W.S.
SUPERINTENDENT.

PART I.
OF
MAMMALIA.

Cape Town :
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1826.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD CHARLES HENRY SOMERSET,
gc. gc. gc.

**THIS DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE MUSEUM,**

FOUNDED BY HIS LORDSHIP,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSECUTING THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF SOUTH AFRICA,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.



IF there is one spot on the surface of the globe better adapted than another for furnishing interesting objects of Natural History to a public Museum, doubtless *that spot* is Southern Africa. Nature to it has been liberal beyond all description ; and if her favors had hitherto been duly appreciated, either by England or by this Colony, it would ere this have been found, that that profusion and variety of vegetable productions which occur about the Cape, and which have been so long the wonder of the world, were not out of proportion to what existed in the other kingdoms of nature. Every where, both land and water, teem with beauty and novelty, and call out loudly to the *Naturalist*, to extend human knowledge, by adding to the catalogue of objects already known, those which both of them so abundantly offer.

Such, one would almost say, irresistible inducements, which for a long time *only* called forth the industry of foreigners, were lately destined to produce a more pleasing effect, by leading to the formation of a Government Esta-

blishment in Cape Town, for the purpose of exploring the natural history of one of the hitherto so grossly neglected parts of the world. That, under the designation of. the "South African Museum," was instituted in June, 1825, by an order from His Excellency Lord CHARLES HENRY SOMERSET, to serve as a depository for private donations, as well as for such objects as could be purchased out of the trifling fund, recommended at the same time for the support of the establishment.

Under such circumstances the Museum commenced, and under such it now proceeds and flourishes. Scarcely has twelve months elapsed, since the Government Notice,* which announced its formation, appeared; and yet, already, several thousand objects are contained within its walls, many of which, are at this moment, quite unknown in Europe. Such nearly unexampled success must be attributed to a variety of circumstances, but particularly to the public spirit of the inhabitants, to the facilities that everywhere abound, and to the aid and support of the Colonial Government, which, there is satisfaction in saying, has always evinced a degree of readiness and anxiety to forward every object connected with the infant institution.

* See the Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser, Vol. 20. No. 1013. 11th June, 1825.

Curiosity, which at first was satisfied with a simple survey of the outward appearances of different objects thus collected, is now prompting many to more interesting and useful employment, and inducing them to inquire regarding the name and nature of whatever is presented to their observation. Such rapid and laudable advancement marks the benefit of example, and such desire for improvement and information, furnishes a just claim for every assistance. These, therefore, in conjunction with the want of any work relative to the natural history of Africa, which is adapted to the general reader, has led thus early to the commencement of a Descriptive Catalogue, that will be continued in periodical numbers : and which, though it will only notice what is actually contained in the establishment, must, in time, handle most of the interesting productions of those parts of the world, to which it will principally relate. Throughout, the language employed will be suited, as much as possible, to the general reader ; and scientific arrangements, both from the plan in which the details will appear, and also from choice, will in a great measure be disregarded, and left to productions, which will appear hereafter of a strictly scientific nature. Notwithstanding such intentions, it will occasionally be absolutely necessary to employ terms and expressions partaking of a

technical nature, but those will invariably be explained at the ends of the numbers in which they occur.

In the course of such an undertaking, many deficiencies will necessarily be evinced, yet most of them will probably be referable to the limited and imperfect sources of information which here exist, touching the late discoveries in science. If, however, the substitution of new names, or the mistaking of old species for new ones, can occur in Europe, where every kind of information is attainable, and be there passed over without censure, how much more reason have those for expecting, at least, an equal consideration, who by the interposition of many thousand miles are precluded from any such advantages. Without saying more, let it then be understood, that names or other distinctions which may be employed in the course of the proposed work, to designate and distinguish supposed novelties, will readily give way to a priority of claim, when such is established, and that, till then, any name or character which is followed by the letter S. rests solely upon the Author's own responsibility.

MAMMALIA;

OR,

ANIMALS WHICH SUCKLE THEIR YOUNG.

A. No. 1.

Baboon of the English.

Bavian of the Dutch.

Cynocephalus Ursinus of Naturalists.*

The colour of this Baboon, though it varies a little in different individuals, will generally be found to approximate towards a dirty black or blackish brown, tinged, however, here and there, more or less deeply, with a shade of dusky yellow or yellowish green.† The face is black, the eyes are brown, the eyebrows extremely prominent, and the hair on most parts of the body long and shaggy.

It is an animal that in all its proceedings evinces marks of great sagacity; and so highly is it capable of receiving and benefiting by instruction, that it has thereby, in many instances, been rendered useful to man: as a proof of which, the following circumstances, out of many, that

* Characters of the genus *Cynocephalus*.—Front teeth, four in each jaw, approximate, erect, and formed for cutting. Canine teeth, or tusks, one on each side, both above and below, considerably longer than the last, of a conical or pyramidal form, and with their inner sides sharp edged. Grinders, five in each side of both jaws, the anterior of which is in general considerably longer than the others, and the posterior is often larger. Nose elongated, facial angle between thirty and forty-five degrees, face bare, nostrils approximate, and separated from each other only by a narrow partition, ears sometimes entire, sometimes notched, cheek pouches, tail long and bushy, or short, or entirely wanting; teats, two situated on the chest; feet, all with five toes; nails, either flat or slightly rounded, and the hinder legs each, with a bare spot of greater or less extent near the root of the tail.

† Three examples have lately been met with in this colony, in which the colour was nearly a pure white.

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have been communicated to me by unquestionable authorities, may be stated :—" A respectable inhabitant of the Onder Bokkeveld had, some few years ago, a baboon which he taught many surprising things ; and amongst others (being himself an excellent blacksmith) the use of the fore-hammer. That instrument the animal employed with unexceptionable skill, and readily performed with it whatever he was desired, but when large work happened to come upon the anvil, and the sparks to fly therefrom in abundance, he regularly threw away the hammer, and could by no means, on such occasions be induced to resume it. He could distinguish the several tools in the shop when asked for by their names, and would bring them to his master accordingly. When visitors arrived on horseback, he first saluted them, by taking off a small leathern cap which he wore on his head, and then offered them his hand, after which he took the bridle reins, and led the horses to and fro in the style of a stable boy, until they were perfectly cold."

This species, when hunted, generally betrays an inclination to effect a safe retreat, but when he sees that impracticable, particularly when in company with many others, shews much determination and courage, fronts his assailants with firmness, and yields up life, if that be unavoidable, often with the satisfaction at least of not being the *only* sufferer. On occasions of this kind, indications of fear ought never, if possible, to be discovered by the pursuer, because the discernment and wisdom of the animal lead him invariably to take advantage of such, and often induce him to attack instead of defend.

Inhabits most parts of Southern Africa, more particularly however, the mountainous ranges, and deep ravines usually connected with those. On the former they are often seen leaping from rock to rock, or quietly seated on the loftiest peaks, whilst in the latter they are frequently observed seeking concealment from their enemies or in quest of their food. It is currently reported throughout the colony, that this animal is in the habit of throwing stones, from elevated spots, at persons whom they may perceive more or less directly below them ; but how far that is conformable to truth remains yet to be determined. I have myself on several occasions remarked the descent of stones from places inhabited by baboons, and in one or two of those instances, actually, saw them displaced by the feet

of the animal whilst leaping from one rock to another, evidently by accident, which, I have no doubt, has in general more to do with such occurrences, than design. They live in society, and feed upon roots, fruits, &c.

The safest and most effectual method of obtaining specimens of this kind of baboon, is to resort to places inhabited by them, and upon having concealed a gun, take up some conspicuous position. After holding that for a little, so as to be seen by the animals in question, retreat to the place where the gun had been previously placed, and there get out of their sight. In a little time, they will (impelled partly by curiosity and partly by fear) cautiously approach the first spot, not however directly, but in a circuitous direction; and if, upon such intentions being perceived amongst them, the utmost quiet be observed, they will soon by degrees come near enough to be shot.

A. No. 2.

Dwarf Baboon of the Cape.

Cynocephalus Capensis. S.

The ground colour of this species resembles a good deal that of the last, but the yellow or yellowish green tinge is never so distinct, and in many is not at all perceptible. The face is black, the eyes are brown, and nearly on a level with the eyebrows, which formation furnishes a very marked distinction between it and No. 5. Its size, as the local name implies, is rather diminutive, seldom measuring beyond fifteen inches from the forehead to the tail, and rarely more than twenty or twenty-four in height.

Its intellectual powers are much inferior to those of the one already described, and its memory is any thing but good. It is with difficulty made to comprehend even the most simple instructions, and when that has been effected, it readily forgets again, unless kept in constant practice.

Inhabits Table Mountain, and the range of hills which extends from it to Cape Point, as well as the Paarde Berg, and the country in the vicinity of the Paarl, but whether it occurs or not in the more interior parts of the colony is

yet to be ascertained. Like the large species it lives in society, feeds on roots and fruits, and may also be procured, though not so readily, by practising the mode of decoy already described.

A. No. 3.

Monkey of the English.

Blauwe Aap of the Dutch.

Cercopithecus Faunus of Naturalists.*

This is a slender species of Monkey, measuring when at its full size, 18 or 20 inches in length, and when standing on its four feet, 14 or 15 in height. The colour above is a speckled grey, tinged more or less with dirty green; beneath, greyish white or a dirty faint greenish yellow. The face, the chin, and the last joints of the extremities are black: the sides of the neck, the throat, and the breast, pale reddish white: the ears either dark or inclined to flesh coloured, and the forehead, a little above the eyes, is marked by a transverse whitish band, whilst the rest of the hair on that situation, as well as on the crown and back of the neck, is generally darker than on the other parts of the body, and in the two former places, often erect or inclined backwards. The tail is nearly about the length of the body, and of the same colour, till near the tip, which is black, and inclined to bushy. On each hinder extremity near the root of the last, there is a space of greater or less extent destitute of covering, and the cheek pouches particularly when the animal is feeding are very distinct, being marked at those times by a conical prominence on one or both sides of the head.

* Characters of the genus *Cercopithecus*.—Front teeth four, approximate, erect, and formed for cutting; canine teeth or tusks, longer than the last, of a conical or pyramidal shape, and each with its posterior side sharp edged; grinders five on each side, both above and below; muzzle more or less produced, facial angle between 45 and 60 degrees; face naked, nostrils close together, and only separated from each other by a thin partition; cheeks with pouches; tail long and lax; teats two, situated on the chest; feet five-toed, nails roundish or flat, hinder extremities each with a bare spot near the root of the tail.

This monkey is generally of a timid disposition* and easily domesticated; under such circumstances it is readily taught a variety of tricks, and is fond of practising them whenever opportunities occur. It frequently furnishes us with examples of strong attachment to its owner, and is often seen perfectly loose, following him about like a dog. Its discernment and powers of discrimination are surprisingly great, and it can even in the dark distinguish those with whom it is familiar from strangers, or from individuals with whom it is but little acquainted. When threatened it generally retreats with precipitation, and proves to us the fear it experiences, by its mournful cries. Provided its assailant appears firm in his attack, the animal continues passive, but if he evinces the slightest sign of dread, or shews any inclination to desist, the monkey then will in general be found to avail himself of such indications, and either feign or effect an actual attack, which will usually be preceded or accompanied by a variety of singular jestures and ridiculous grimaces.

Is gregarious, and inhabits very generally the whole of Southern Africa. It is usually found in wooded situations, particularly in such of those as are adjoining gardens or cultivated grounds, because to like spots it often resorts for its food. In the uninhabited parts of the country where nothing but the common products of nature exist, its chief nourishment consists of bulbs, roots, and wild fruits, and its proceedings in quest of the former are often evinced by numerous small holes in the ground, about the vicinity of woods, &c.

* Instances of the reverse, however, are now and then met with, and not very long ago, Mr. Villet possessed an animal of the species under consideration, whose ferocity could by no treatment be overcome. That animal, instead of being frightened at the sight of a gun or other offensive weapon, as is *generally* the case with its kind, seemed only thereby to acquire an additional degree of courage, and a greater desire for attack.

A. No. 4.

Macaucó.

Lemur Catta of Naturalists.*

This animal is of a slender elegant form, and rarely exceeds the size of a small cat. The nose and centre of the face are black ; the sides of the latter slightly greyish white ; the forehead, the sides of the head and throat white ; the crown of the head and the back of the neck blackish brown ; the rest of the body and the limbs a reddish ash colour ; tail long, and marked by alternate black and white rings ; ears erect, and thinly covered outside with long white hair, eyes between an orange and a hazel colour. Its manners are gentle and lively ; it is extremely active and easily tamed, is highly sensible of kindness, delights in heat, and feeds on fruits, &c. In their native state they live in society, and are often seen in the woods in troops of thirty or forty together. Inhabits Madagascar, from whence it was brought for the Museum, by Captain Vidal, of His Majesty's Ship *Barracouta*.

A. No. 5.

Macaucó.

Lemur Macaco of Naturalists.

The colour of this species of *Lemur* varies very considerably, being sometimes entirely black, sometimes white, and frequently a compound of both, as exhibited by the two specimens contained in the Museum. The hair on most parts of the body is long, but more particularly so on the sides of the neck, where it generally forms a sort of ruff, by which the animal is easily known. The eyes are of a deep orange or reddish colour, and its feet are said to be *invariably* black ; face black, with very short grey hairs set

* Characters of the genus *Lemur*.—Front teeth, four above and six below ; tusks, distinct and compressed ; grinders, six on each side, above and below ; nose sharp ; face a little hairy, eyes looking forwards ; ears short and round ; tail long and hairy ; teats on the breast ; feet all five-toed and nails flat or rounded.

thinly on its sides. When at its full growth it generally measures from 18 to 20 inches in length, and the tail nearly as much. This like the last is a native of Madagascar, and was kept for some time on board the *Barracouta*, during which time it evinced indications of a mild and tractable disposition.

A. No. 6.

Leopard of the English.

Tyger of the Dutch.

Felis Leopardus of Naturalists.*

The grand colour of the Leopard as he occurs in South Africa, is a tawny yellow, or a pale reddish brown above, and a dirty white beneath. He is thickly marked all over the upper and lateral parts of the body, as well as on the shoulders and thighs, with roundish black spots, which in the two former situations particularly, are disposed in more or less distinct circles, each consisting of four, five, or more separate spots; breast, belly, and tail, with irregular black blotches. His usual length from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail, is about 4 feet, and the latter is generally between 28 and 32 inches.

In the more interior parts of the country, this animal proves often a very troublesome and destructive visitor, and frequently carries away during the night from the pens of the farmer, sheep, lambs, calves, &c. When after such depredations he is traced, and his place of concealment discovered, means are in general immediately taken to destroy him, and for such purposes dogs are either set at him to attract his attention while the sportsman searches for a good opportunity to shoot him, or he is quietly watched till that opportunity occurs. When on such occasions he is fired at and only wounded, he either makes a precipitate retreat,

* Characters of the genus *Felis*.—Front teeth, six in each jaw, tusks distinct, acute, conical, and much longer than the last; grinders four on each side above, and three below: tongue with prickles pointing backwards: pupils oblong or orbicular; ears small and pointed; body covered with hair; tail varying in length; teats either four or two on the belly, or else four on the breast and four on the belly; feet formed for walking, the fore ones with five toes and the hinder ones with four; claws bent, acute, and can either be concealed or raised at pleasure.

or rushes forward with great impetuosity on his enemy, and if the latter, he generally makes him pay dearly for his sport. He is said to prefer destroying his own prey, and it has been ascertained beyond doubt, that he frequently hangs it up afterwards on the branches of trees, and allows it to remain there for several days. This fact in the leopard's history is well known to the Hottentots, who frequently convert their knowledge to advantage, by resorting to such spots as they may have discovered to form his haunts, and from thence carrying off his food. Some think that he pursues the plan just described, because he relishes the meat most when tainted; whilst others again contend that he merely suspends it to preserve it from other carnivorous animals, which prowl along the surface of the ground, and readily devour whatever they can find.

Inhabits most parts of Southern Africa, particularly however the interior districts, where the population is either scanty, or the inhabitants badly armed. He is generally found in the vicinity of farm-houses or kraals, especially when these are situated near woods, rivers, or deep rocky ravines. When hunting the leopard, in woods, it is always requisite to survey the bushes and low trees, as well as the surface of the ground, because he often retreats to such situations, particularly if dogs precede the visit of the sportsman.

A. No. 7.

Hunting Leopard of the English.

Tyger Kat of the Dutch.

Felis Jubata of Naturalists.

This animal, as he occurs at the Cape, seldom exceeds the size of a small greyhound. His colour is a sort of reddish, yellow above, white beneath, and marked in the first situation by numerous round black spots, in the latter by obscure dusky blotches; nose black, and from each eye a black line extends to the corners of the mouth; the tail is spotted like the body till near the tip where there are a few obscure bands or rings. There is generally a slight

appearance of a mane along the upper part of the neck and shoulders, and the hair on most other parts of the body, stands more or less erect, whereby the animal has a rough and rather unpleasant appearance.

Inhabits most parts of Southern Africa, and is generally found in such open ground as is covered by long grass, or small scattered bushes, and which has wood and water in its vicinity, where it preys on the smaller quadrupeds, such as hares, antilopes, lambs, &c.

When his resort is discovered, he generally makes towards the nearest wood, and usually ascends into trees or lofty bushes, from which circumstance, the same plan must be pursued in hunting him, that has been recommended under the head of the leopard.

A. No. 8.

Cape Cat of the English.

Tyger Bosch Kat of the Dutch.

Felis Capensis of Naturalists.

The ground colour of this animal will generally be found to be either a dusky or a reddish yellow, variously variegated with black bands or spots. The former occur, though not distinctly, on the back of the neck, and their continuations appear in the form of two diverging oblique stripes on each shoulder; the latter again on most other parts, either in oblique or roundish forms, and more or less disposed, particularly on the body, in longitudinal rows. The insides of the legs and the belly generally incline to a dirty white; the tail is nearly of the same colour as the body, and annulated with dusky black; the outsides of the ears are black with a transverse white bar about the middle of each; and the length of the animal from the nose to the root of the tail is between two feet six inches and three feet; the length of the tail about one foot, and the common height about eighteen or twenty inches.

This species inhabits most parts of the country, and is usually found in woods, or in long grass or reeds, which border upon bush. When discovered in either of the latter situations it invariably makes towards the former, and quickly

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ascends the first tree or lofty shrub that it encounters, and there remains till it is either destroyed or the pursuit is abandoned. It obtains its food, partly from the class of small quadrupeds, and partly from the feathered race, and when hungry, it is said that it often even consumes the eggs of the latter.

A. No. 9.

Wild Cat of the English.

Wilde Kat of the Dutch.

Felis Caffra of Naturalists.

The colour of this cat is a sort of light greyish brown, variegated a little by an intermixture of hair, variously mottled with black and white. The upper parts of the body exhibit the deepest tinge, whilst the throat, the breast, the belly, and the legs are considerably lighter, and the latter are slightly marked by oblique or transverse black streaks. The ground colour of the tail is similar to that of the body, but the quantity of black is throughout considerably greater, and occurs in the form of a few indistinct rings, near and at the tip, which last is actually formed by one of those. The ears are pointed, and covered outside with a short reddish hair; the last joints of the extremities are black behind; and the whiskers and eyebrows consist of long white strong hairs. In general form and appearance, this species resembles a good deal the common domestic cat; yet, at the same time, it considerably exceeds the last in length of body and legs.

It is an animal of a highly ferocious disposition, and inhabits many parts of the Colony, living entirely on animal food, and generally selecting birds and small quadrupeds for its prey.

A. No. 10.

Jackal of the English.

Jackals of the Dutch.

Canis Misomelas of Naturalists.*

The usual colour of this little animal above, is black, variously clouded, waved, and marked with white. The head is yellowish brown, with a pretty free admixture of white hairs; the sides of the neck and body, as well as the outsides of the extremities, bright reddish yellow, and the throat, the breast, the belly, and the insides of the thighs more or less inclined to white. The tail is generally about a foot in length, bushy, and of a reddish yellow colour, variegated with black, except the tip and part near to it, which are entirely of the latter hue. Between the grizzled colour of the back and the foxy tinge of the lateral parts is a black band, which varies in intensity as well as in breadth and length, according to the age and sex of the animal. Face long and narrow, nose black, edges of the upper lip thinly beset with long black hairs, similar to those which are observed on the eyebrows, on the sides of the head, a little to the outside of each eye, and behind the angles of the mouth. The length of this animal, from the nose to the tip of the tail, is generally about two feet and a half, and its height commonly eighteen or twenty inches.

It occurs in every part of the country, and lives entirely on animal food, which it searches for in general during the night, though occasionally, also, in the less inhabited districts throughout the day. It is always satisfied with carrion, when that can be obtained, and consequently is the frequent companion of the hyæna, who generally lives in friendship with it, unless suffering from hunger, when he shews little reluctance in appeasing the calls of nature by killing and devouring it.

* Characters of the genus *Canis*.—Front teeth six in each jaw, tusks longer than the last, acute and conical; grinders six above and seven below, on each side. Nose sharp, tongue smooth, pupil circular or oblong, ears of moderate size, tail varying in length, teats on the breast and belly, feet formed for walking, the front ones with five toes, the hinder with four, claws roundish.

A. No. 11.

Wolf of the English.

Tyger Wolf of the Dutch.

Hyæna Croacuta of Naturalists.*

The Wolf, as this animal is most commonly called at the Cape, is of a reddish yellow or a reddish brown colour, marked, however, by black spots, blotches, or small stripes, which are very distinct on the body and outsides of the legs, but less so on the head, neck, and belly. The tail, for more than half its length, is of a tint similar to the ground colour of the body, but the rest, which consists of the part towards the tip, is black. The upper part of the neck and shoulders, as well as a little of the anterior part of the back, are covered by hair of a greater length than any of the other parts, whereby a slight mane is formed, that is particularly evident when the animal is irritated. The face is broad, and covered by short reddish brown hair; the nose is black, as is also the outsides of the ears, and the insides of the latter are white. On the anterior parts of the upper lip are placed a number of long black hairs, and similar ones are also observed on the eyebrows, on the forehead, a little above the inner corners of the eyes, as well as on the sides of the face, about an inch behind the angles of the mouth. When standing, the fore parts of the body are considerably higher than the hinder ones, which is entirely owing to the difference in the length of the legs. This animal, when at its full growth, generally measures from the nose to the root of the tail about four feet, or to the tip about five, and usually attains a height between two feet six and three feet.

He is thoroughly carnivorous, devouring with avidity all sorts of animal food, and even seeming to delight in the most putrid and offensive matter, so that unless the latter be unattainable, he seldom attempts to kill for himself. Though this fact holds good in general, yet instances,

* Characters of the genus *Hyæna*.—Front teeth six in each jaw, tusks considerably longer than the last, grinders five on each side above and four on each side below. Nose sharp, tongue rough, ears moderately long, tail short, teats four, situated on the belly, a glandular bag under the tail, feet formed for walking, and four-toed, claws roundish and acute.

however, are now and then met with, where he betrays evidently an opposite inclination, and numerous examples occur daily, where, in consequence of a deficiency of carrion, he proves himself the destructive enemy of the African grazier. His appetite is extremely voracious, and he swallows, without discrimination, flesh, bones, hair, &c. and those in such quantities, that it would almost require personal observation to ensure its being believed.

As this species of hyæna is of that class of animals which seek their food in the night, he, therefore, like the rest of those, courts concealment during the day, and effects that by betaking himself to holes in the ground, to crevices in rocks, or to the depths of solitary and almost inaccessible ravines. He is of a cowardly disposition, particularly during the day-time, and will rarely, at any time, face opposition and danger, unless upon actual necessity, from which circumstance, many animals have escaped his grasp that must otherwise have fallen victims to his strength.

If pursued or attacked, he generally avoids resistance as long as the means of retreat exist, but when those are cut off, and particularly if his opponent gives indications of hesitation or fear, he attacks with vigour and mangles with severity. He is cunning and treacherous, steals upon his prey, if possible, when unperceived, and if his intentions are discovered, before he is able to accomplish his design, he generally desists, instead of resorting to violence, and patiently watches for a more favourable opportunity of effecting his purpose.

In parts of the country, where his usual food is scanty, he often proves an unwelcome visitor to travellers, and frequently injures or destroys some of their oxen or horses, when they may, from necessity, be forced to send them out to pasture during the night. Under such circumstances it may be pleasant to know, that his ravages may be almost effectually prevented by *knee-banding* the latter, and fixing ropes or rims to some part of the former. Horses, when so fastened, generally face the enemy, and by that measure secure themselves from his teeth, while oxen again derive immunity from the suspicion and fears that are occasioned by the presence of the appendages recommended.

Of all the larger animals of prey that inhabit Southern Africa, the one under consideration is perhaps the most generally obnoxious, as he occurs so frequently in almost

every part of the country. On this account various plans have been resorted to for destroying him, such as exploring dens, forming traps, exhibiting poisons, setting guns, &c.

Digging, or filling their habitations with the fumes of sulphur, are the modes usually employed to effect the first, and setting iron traps, or constructing small houses with sliding doors, are the means resorted to when the second plan is preferred. In the case of the third, again, poisons, particularly that known in the colony by the name of *wolf-gift* are introduced into meat, which is then placed in situations that form the common resort of the animals under consideration; and the last method is practised by placing a loaded musket, with meat attached to it, in such a situation, that any attempt to carry off the latter, must cause the discharge of the former, when most likely the robber is opposite the muzzle.

A. No. 12.

Striped Hyæna of the English.

Strand Wolf of the Dutch.

Hyæna Striata of Naturalists.

This animal, the real Hyæna of the ancients, does not occur in Southern Africa, of so great a size as the spotted species, but with that exception, and the difference of colour, the one has considerable similitude to the other. In the present kind, the ground colour is a dirty pale grey or greyish brown, accompanied by a tawny cast, with the sides marked by perpendicular or waved black streaks or blotches, and the legs by transverse broad, jet black lines. The hair on the upper part of the neck and along the middle of the back is invariably the longest, and thereby forms a sort of mane, which the animal erects or even inclines forward when annoyed. The face is very broad, with the upper part covered by short greyish brown hair, whilst the lower is bare and black, like the nose. The tail is of moderate length, and fully set with blackish hair; the eyes are dark brown, and the ears are longish, sharp-pointed, and thinly covered, outside, with a dirty tawny grey hair.

Independent of the facility of ascertaining the two species, by the difference of colouring, the present may easily be distinguished besides by the greater length of the hair on every part of the body, which gives the whole a shaggy appearance and a peculiar character.

The remarks which have been made relative to the disposition, as well as the manners and customs of the spotted sort, may with equal propriety be applied to this; indeed, in all those respects, the two animals seem so much alike, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to point out any striking differences. The same timidity is portrayed by both, the same courage is evinced under similar circumstances, and the same sort of cunning is invariably betrayed when suitable opportunities offer.

A living specimen of this animal, which I kept a long time in my possession, appeared particularly inclined to indolence during the day, and submitted to confinement, even from the first, without any apparent regret, till the gloom of night approached, when he generally became restless, active, and evidently anxious after liberty. Every change that was made in his situation was followed during the night by fresh exertions, but as soon as he found escape to be unattainable, he quietly submitted to his fate, and seemed almost to comfort himself by a belief, that the next alteration might be more advantageous. When first procured, he was chained to a wooden post, and a large box was placed near him to afford a shelter from the inclemencies of the weather, but that he soon broke to pieces. He was then moved into an out-house, and there kept chained till the collar began to chafe his neck, when it was cut off, the door fixed up, and he left, so far free.

Though he could, while secured as above-mentioned, range over every part of the house, yet he never attempted to effect his escape, till he found himself disencumbered of his chain, when he commenced, the very *first night*, digging up the floor, close to the edge of the wall, and so industrious was he, that ere morning he formed a cavity in which he could almost completely conceal himself. That was immediately filled up by large stones, all of which, however, he removed again during the next night, and went on with the experiment till he reached the foundation of the wall, which was so strong and broad that it put a complete stop to his farther progress. Having on this occa-

sion, also, been disappointed in his expectations, he relinquished exertion, appeared perfectly contented with his residence, and shewed no inclination whatever to commence operations in any other parts of the building. He always evinced a great anxiety to carry objects of every description to the place where he was confined, and whatever he got he invariably shewed much inclination to retain, as even the most trifling articles were not without difficulty regained after he had once got them within his reach. He always seemed much delighted at the occurrence of rain, and during its continuance kept leaping and running about with unusual activity. Great warmth appeared always to be disagreeable to him, and wherever the heat of the sun was powerful, he regularly, if possible, got into the shade. On various occasions he appeared playful and mild, which however there was reason to believe arose more from the dictates of cunning than from those of good nature; and on one of these occasions he practised the above-mentioned system till he got his playmate, a young dog, within his grasp, after which he proceeded by instantly devouring him.

This species, as well as the other, is so treacherous, so uncertain, and so designing, that he ought never to be treated with familiarity, as no just idea can ever be formed of his inward feelings from his outward deportment. It may be well to know, and to recollect, that the most dangerous time, as well as the most likely one to suffer from his teeth, is when retreating or moving away a hand that may happen to have been employed in caressing him.

As many observations must yet be made before we can possess any thing like a correct knowledge of the habits of either species, it would be well for such persons as have opportunities of frequently observing them to mark every circumstance they may notice. Amongst other points, it ought to be very particularly ascertained if they always devour their food on the spots where they find it, or if they occasionally carry it away into their dens; as also, when they have young, how they furnish them with food, till they are able to provide for themselves. By such means various uncertain points in their history would thereby be elucidated, and amongst others, we should know whether they really carry away in their mouths food for their young, or merely regurgitate on their return a portion of what they themselves

had swallowed, as is the more general belief in this colony. Though I do not pretend to assert, that the latter is the plan they pursue, yet I can state with confidence that they can, and even occasionally do, bring up their food again and chew it afresh, and that, sometimes a considerable time after they have first eaten it.*

This sort neither occurs so generally nor in such abundance as the other kind, and from its being usually found about the coast, it has obtained the name of Strand Jut, or Strand Wolf, as already stated.

A. No. 13.

Ratel of the Dutch.

Gulo Mellivora of Naturalists.†

The *Ratel* is an animal that proves very destructive to bees' nests in almost every part of the colony, and regularly consumes honey wherever it can find it. For such work it is particularly fitted by the thickness and hardness of its skin, which are so great, that the stings of the bees do not extend through it, at least, not in such a way as to be productive of their usual effects under other circumstances. It is about the size of a badger, or small dog, is strongly made, and stands low in consequence of the shortness of all its legs. The crown of the head, the upper part of the neck, the back, and the greater part of the tail is a black and white intimately mixed; the face, the sides of the neck, the throat, the breast, the belly, the extremities, and the tip of the tail, are black, and those two colours are separated from each other on the sides of the body by a band of pure white. The nose is sharp; the eyes are moderately large and black; the feet have all five toes, those of the fore ones armed with long, strong, curved claws, and those of the hinder with short ones; claws thick, and rather blunt.

Honey, as has been already mentioned, forms the chief food of this animal, and in search of that it wanders in

* Vultures, which also feed on carrion, are said to supply their young in a similar way: and Le Vaillant mentions, that he several times saw the Cape *Aas Vogel* regurgitate its food.—*Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique*, tom. 1. p. 30.

† Characters of the genus *Gulo*.—Front teeth, above and below, six; tusks conical, acute, and much longer than the last; grinders, above four or five on each side, and below five or six; nose sharp; ears short and rounded; tail rather bushy, and either of moderate length or very short; feet five toed; claws roundish, and sharp pointed.

situations most likely to contain it, such as in and about the vicinity of woods, wooded kloofs, or rocky chasms. Whenever it discovers a nest, it invariably commences by pulling it to pieces, and when that is done, it carries away the combs by degrees to a secure spot, which it selects for its general repository, and on such occasions it is said never to satisfy its appetite till its task is completed.

When hunted, it generally betakes itself into the first hole it meets, and there remains till the pursuit is abandoned, but when it is prevented escaping, in the mode just stated, or secured before it reaches such a place, it fights with determination, and bites with amazing severity; and so great is the strength of its jaws, that when once it gets hold, it requires a very great force to be employed before the mouth can be opened again. It is extremely tenacious of life, and only seems to suffer from blows when they are inflicted about the nose and head.

When living specimens are obtained, it is always dangerous to take hold of them, even by the back of the neck, because the skin is so loose on every part of the body, that the animal can turn itself almost in every direction independent of it, from which circumstance severe injuries have occasionally been inflicted upon the unwary sportsman. It possesses, like several other animals, which have like it a similar formation under the tail, the power of diffusing a most offensive odour, which it regularly practices when in any way irritated.

A. No. 14.

Muskegaat Kat of the Dutch.

Viverra Genetta of Naturalists.*

The Genet has some resemblance to a cat, but is of a more lengthened and slender form. The ground colour is a pale reddish gray, with a black or dusky line running along the centre of the back, where the hair is rather longer than on the other parts of the body, and gives the appearance

Characters of the genus *Viverra*—Front teeth six in each jaw; tusks distinct, longer than the last, and conical, grinders six on each side, both above and below; nose acute; tongue rough, with prickles pointing backwards; pupil longest transversely; ears roundish; body with long hair intermixed with the fur; tail long; teats either four on the breast and two on the belly, or four on the belly and none on the breast; feet formed for walking, five toed; claws roundish, sharp-pointed, and partly retractile.

of a very slight mane. On the sides of the body are several rows of roundish black spots, some of which sometimes incline a little to a squarish form; the snout is sharp-pointed; the ears upright; the tail long, and marked by alternate rings of black and white; and the cheeks, the sides of the neck, and the limbs, mottled with small black blotches. Beneath each eye is a small white spot, and there is also one of a similar colour on both sides of the upper lip.

It is found throughout the whole of South Africa, but is most abundant in the uninhabited parts of the country, where, as well as in other situations, it lives in holes in the ground, or in crevices of rocks, and feeds on birds, small quadrupeds, &c.

This animal is said to be of a mild disposition, and easily tamed, and that in various parts of the East, as well as at Constantinople, it is domesticated like a cat, and found to be equal, if not superior, to it in cleansing houses from rats and mice. My experience, however, in regard to this animal, leads me to a very different conclusion, for instead of being mild, I have invariably found it extremely ferocious and savage, biting with severity whatever happened to come near it. That inclination, though fully betrayed by those animals at a very early age, is found to be more strongly evinced by such as attain maturity in a state of nature, and in two instances in which I attempted to tame it, when procured under the latter circumstances I was induced at last to desist, from finding every effort prove unavailing. That the ferocious and sanguinary disposition, certainly natural to this animal, may be modified or overcome by patience and perseverance is not improbable, but at the same time it is certain, that that will not be effected in the Cape kind, without the exercise of both the one and the other, even in cases in which it may be procured when only a few days old.

Such individuals as may have frequent opportunities of seeing this quadruped, would do well to notice its manners, customs, disposition, &c. and any information relative to these or other parts of its history will be thankfully acknowledged, if addressed to the author at the South African Museum,

A. No. 15.

Gestreepte Muishond of the Dutch.

Mephites Capensis.* S.

This animal above is black, marked with four narrow longitudinal white bands, which commence at the forehead, and terminate at the root of the tail. For some considerable distance from the head they run close to each other, but about the middle of the back they diverge a little, and afterwards converge again before they reach the tail, by which mode of extension a broad black blotch is formed, which is always distinct about the small of the back. The face and sides of the head are black, with the exception of a white spot on the forehead, and one behind each eye. The nose is long and pointed; the ears are small, round, and thinly covered with short white hair; and the sides of the neck, the throat, the breast, the belly, and extremities, are black. The tail is bushy, about ten inches long, and variegated black and white; the legs are short, and the toes five on each foot; those of the fore ones are long, hooked, roundish, and pointed, those of the hinder ones short, flat, and blunt. When standing it is generally between three and four inches high, and measures from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail, about fifteen or sixteen inches.

When irritated, it sends forth a most unpleasant and disgusting odour, which it can repeat at pleasure, and to which it is said to have recourse when pursued, in order to stop the progress of the dogs. When running, it usually carries its tail erect, or bent back towards the body, and with the hair standing outwards, whereby it appears very full and broad. It inhabits most parts of the country, and is usually found in rocky situations, where it generally conceals itself in holes during the day, but ranges about in the evenings and mornings in quest of the smaller quadrupeds, birds, lizards, &c. all of which it catches and readily consumes for its food.

* Characters of the genus *Mephites*.—Front teeth, six in both jaws; tusks conical, and much longer than the last; grinders four on each side above, and five below; tongue smooth; ears small and rounded; body covered with hair of different lengths; tail moderate; feet distinct, and five toed; claws rounded and acute.

A. No. 16.

Gryze Muishond of the Dutch.

Herpestes Caffra of Naturalists.*

This elegant little animal is well known in most parts of the country, and is frequently domesticated, and employed for destroying mice, &c. The colour of every part of the body and tail is nearly the same, and consists of a mixture of black and white, so disposed as to exhibit a sort of grizzled appearance, which from the close intermixture of the tints is difficult to describe. The nose is prominent, narrow, and black; the eyes are small and vivid; the ears are short, and covered with a fine woolly fur: the feet are blackish brown; the tail is generally about the same length as the body, thick at the root, and small at the tip; the toes are armed with moderately strong claws, particularly the fore ones; and the length of the animal, from the nose to the root of the tail, is in general about fourteen or fifteen inches.

It feeds on mice, rats, small birds, &c. and unless when in quest of those, generally conceals itself in holes in the ground, from whence it emerges always with extreme caution, and to which it instantly returns on the appearance of danger.

A. No. 17.

Ourebi of the Dutch.

Antelope Ourebi, } of Naturalists.†
 ———— .Scoparia, }

The colour of this Antelope is a deep tawny or reddish yellow, except the breast, the lower parts of the sides, and

* Characters of the genus *Herpestes*.—Front teeth six, both above and below; tusks distinct, longer than the last, acute, and conical; grinders, six on each side of both jaws; muzzle sharp, nose produced; tongue beset above with rough papillæ; pupil oblong; ears short and rounded; tail long, and gradually tapering towards the tip; a glandular bag under the tail; feet, five toed; the toes connected to each other near their roots; nails rounded and sharp.

† Characters of the genus *Antelope*.—Front teeth, below eight, above none, tusks wanting; grinders, six on each side of both jaws; nose produced, a small hole below the inner corner of each eye, in most species; ears moderately acuminate; tail short, or very short; teats two or five on the hinder part of the belly; feet formed for walking, and the hoofs cloven.

the belly, which are white; the head is small, the neck long and slender; the ears erect, pointed, and all of the same colour as the body, unless the very edges near and at the tips, which are blackish brown. On each of the fore legs, immediately upon or under the knee, is a small tuft of long hair; the tail is short and black. The horns are straight, long, slender, sharp-pointed, and more or less irregular near their origins, from a few distinct circular ridges or rings; the usual length of the animal is between three and four feet, the height a little more than two, and the tail about three or four inches long.

This species is found in greatest abundance in the interior parts of the country, and is common in the districts of Uitenhage, Albany, Somerset, and Graaff-Reinet, as well as in the regions beyond the boundaries of the colony, and in those places it is principally met with either on flats which adjoin woods, or in spots thinly set with small bushes.

A. No. 18.

Gryzebok of the Dutch.

Antelope *Melanotis* of Naturalists.

The colour of this Antelope above, is a dark reddish brown, verging in young ones towards chesnut, below it is a pale tawny inclined to white. The neck, the back, and the sides are moreover variegated a little by the intermixture of white hairs, which are scanty in young specimens, but abundant in old ones, indeed often so much so, as to give the whole a whitish cast. The tail is very short and of the same colour as the back; the ears are long, erect, pointed, and thinly covered outside with short reddish brown or gray hair, whilst inside they are slightly white, and the horns of the male are slender, pointed, and bending a little forward, towards their tips. This is a small slender animal, seldom arriving at the height of two feet, and generally measuring between two feet six inches and three feet in length. It is found pretty generally in most parts of the colony, and is even frequently seen and shot on the lower parts of Table Mountain and about Camps Bay.

A. No. 19.

Blauw Bok of the Dutch.

Antelope Pygmea of Naturalists.

The colour of this little elegant animal is a sort of brownish gray above and a dirty white beneath, with the extremities of a reddish brown or chesnut hue, except the insides of the thighs which are white. Ears nearly of the same colour as the body without, but white within. Tail very short, tip and under-side white, upper blackish brown. Horns small, straight, and pointed, with elevated rings or circular ridges near their bases. Length usually about two feet, and height generally between eleven and thirteen inches.

It inhabits pretty generally the more extensive woods and forests of Southern Africa, and specimens may be obtained from the Sitsicamma, Bosjesman's River, Bavians' River, Chumie, &c. At the latter place it is much hunted by the Caffres, in consequence of its skin forming the favorite head-dress of their females. Like the rest of the same genus, its food is derived entirely from the vegetable kingdom, and it is particularly fond of consuming the tender leaves and shoots of the dwarf shrubs, usually found in the sort of places which it principally inhabits.

A. No. 20.

Steen Bok of the Dutch.

Antelope Rupestris of Naturalists.

The *Steen Bok* is one of the smallest and slightest of the antelope genus, and inhabits Southern Africa, from Table Mountain at least to Latakoo. It is of a dirty reddish brown or chesnut colour, always shaded however, though in some lights more distinctly than in others, with a dirty gray or a dry mud colour, which appears to depend upon a particular tinge in the tips of the hair. The chin, the back part of the belly, and the posterior parts of the hinder legs, are

white; the breast and fore parts of the belly are reddish white, and an indistinct blotch of a similar colour is observed before and above each eye. The tail is very short, seldom measuring more than two or three inches, and is of the same colour as the back; the legs are long and slender: the ears are erect and pointed, dark outside, and irregularly beset inside with reddish white hair; the length from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail is generally a little more than three feet, and the height is about two feet four or two feet six. The horns of the male are nearly straight, slender, sharp-pointed, and a little irregular about their bases, from imperfectly marked annular ridges.

A. No. 21.

Duiker Bok of the Dutch.

Antelope Mergens of Naturalists.

This species is nearly about the size of the last described, and its colour is an uniform dusky, grizzled brown, with a tail not more than three inches long, black above and white beneath. It is an animal that is readily distinguished from all the rest of the antelope genus, by a small tuft of long black hair which stands erect between the ears on the crown of the head.

It is found in bushy places in most parts of the Colony, and derives its name from the method it adopts to elude its pursuers, and which consists in strong and repeated leaps into or amongst the thickest bushes.

A. No. 22.

Klipspringer of the Dutch.

Antelope Oreotragus of Naturalists.

The *Klipspringer* exhibits a more robust form than the generality of the small antelopes, and is covered everywhere by a strong, coarse hair, which resists moderate pressure, and when handled feels like stiff bristles. It is of a sort of grizzled colour throughout, with a distinct but

faint tinge of greenish grey or greenish yellow, shades which are much more distinct in some lights than in others. The legs are strong and of moderate length; the head is thick and rather broad; the nose is sharp; the ears are long, erect, and pointed, and the horns of the male are short, erect, slender, pointed, and rather irregular towards their bases, from imperfect annular ridges. The tail is short, and of the same colour as the body; the length of the whole animal is about three feet, and its height usually between two feet four and two feet eight inches.

It inhabits rocky mountains in every part of the country, and descends to the plains occasionally to feed, but invariably betakes itself to the high grounds when pursued, and easily attains the most inaccessible spots, where it generally remains, and regards with apparent satisfaction the disappointment of the sportsman.

A. No. 23.

Spotted Deer of the English.

Cervus Axis of Naturalists.*

This animal inhabits the East Indies, and is found in abundance about the banks of the Ganges, where it is known by the name of the Ganges Stag. The specimen contained in the Museum is a female, and was kept when alive for some considerable time near Cape Town.

The ground colour is reddish brown, marked with numerous white spots, which are dispersed somewhat in the form of longitudinal rows along the back and sides, in the first of which situations the ground colour is darker than on any other part.

* Characters of the genus *Cervus*.—Front teeth, below eight, above none; tusks for the most part, wanting; grinders, seven on each side of both jaws; nose produced, a small hole below the inner corner of each eye; horns deciduous, and often wanting in the female; ears moderately acuminate; tail short, teats four, situated on the posterior part of the belly, hoofs cloven.

A. No. 24.

Vlak Haas of the Dutch.

Lepus Timidus of Naturalists.*

This Hare is here in general about the same size as in Europe, and is found in dry, flat situations throughout the whole of South Africa. The colour above is a mixture of light tawny brown, grey, and a little black; the sides, the belly, and the extremities, are a pale reddish brown, or dirty faint chesnut, and the tail is black above and pure white beneath.

In the interior districts, where fresh grass, which forms the delight of this animal is scanty during most times of the year, specimens may readily be procured by resorting to the vicinity of springs, where, towards evening they repair, to feed upon the new products, which rise luxuriantly out of the soil, that enjoys the benefit of constant water.

A. No. 25.

Spring Hare of the English.

Spring Haas of the Dutch.

Pedetes Caffer of Naturalists.†

This animal is easily distinguished from all the other quadrupeds of Southern Africa, by the great disproportion between the length of the fore and hind legs. When at its full growth, it is about the size of a small hare, and is of a reddish yellow or sandy colour above, and a pale red-

* Characters of the genus *Lepus*.—Front teeth, above four, two of which stand before the others, below two; tusks wanting; grinders, six on each side of the upper jaw, and five on each side of the lower one; nose sharp; ears elongated; tail short; teats situated both on the breast and belly; fore feet with five toes; hinder ones with four; claws somewhat roundish.

† Characters of the genus *Pedetes*.—Front teeth, two in each jaw; tusks wanting; grinders four on each side, both above and below; nose acute; ears moderately long; tail very long and bushy; teats four, situated on the breast; fore legs short; and the feet with five toes; hinder ones three times as long as the last, and the feet with four toes; claws curved, and slightly roundish.

dish white or a pure white beneath. The outside of the legs are similar in colour to the back, but the insides, particularly towards the body, are inclined to white, and the hinder ones are at least three times as long as the fore ones. The claws of the latter are curved, roundish, long, and pointed; those of the former flat, short, and blunt. The tail is considerably longer than the body, and thickest towards the tip, which is deep black, whilst the rest is like the general colour of the body, reddish yellow. The head is thick, clumsy, and resembles a good deal that of the rabbit; the whiskers are long and black, with a few similar coloured hairs behind the angles of the mouth.

It abounds in various parts of the Colony, but to hunt it with success requires a little caution, as upon being discovered it immediately retreats into deep holes in the ground, where it commonly lives, unless when abroad in search of its food, which consists entirely of the products of the vegetable kingdom.

A. No. 26.

Rock Rabbit of the English.

Klip Das of the Dutch.

Hyrax Capensis of Naturalists.*

The *Das* occurs in mountainous formations throughout the whole of Southern Africa, and may often be seen in such situations running along ledges of rocks, or moving from stone to stone, either in search of its food or in quest of a hiding place. Its size is nearly that of a common rabbit; its figure is thick, and its legs are short. The colour is a dirty blackish brown, occasionally sprinkled with reddish grey, and always lighter below than above. The ears are short, rounded, and covered outside with hair similar to that of the body, but slightly white within, which gives the appearance of an indistinct light blotch on each

* Characters of the genus *Hyrax*.—Front teeth, two above and four below; tusks contiguous, minute, deciduous, and often wanting; grinders, seven in each side of both jaws; nose short and sharp; ears round and short; body thickly covered with fur; no tail; feet distinct; the fore ones with four toes, the hinder with three; nails generally flat.

side of the head; the eyes are large and black; the nose is pointed; the head is small; and it has no tail.

It lives on vegetables, which it procures in the crevices of rocks and about the roots of bushes, and reposes in holes of the ground or in chinks of the mountains during the night.

A. No. 27.

Sand Mole of the English.

Zand Mol of the Dutch.

Georychus Maritimus of Naturalists.*

The Cape Sand Mole is an animal of a thick and clumsy figure, usually measuring about a foot in length, and having a very short flat tail, beset with numerous stiff hairs, which extend horizontally on each side. Above, the prevailing colour is either a light reddish brown, a tawny, or a dirty grey, and beneath, as well as on the sides, it is greyish, more or less inclined to white.† The legs are very short, so as scarcely to keep the body off the ground; the toes, more particularly those of the fore feet, are armed with strong claws; the eyes are very small; the ears have only a slight ring surrounding the external opening, which is generally concealed in the fur, and the fore teeth are long, strong, and quite in advance of the mouth, over which they form a sort of arch when the jaws are shut. It is an animal of a highly savage disposition, bites with great ferocity, and seems always ready for opposition. Its usual residence is under ground, where it forms extensive winding burrows and elevates the earth, like the regular mole, yet occasionally it is met with on the surface, and at those times is readily caught, as its motions are slow and very uncertain.

* Characters of the genus *Georychus*.—Front teeth two, both above and below, situated outside of the lips; tusks wanting; grinders, four on each side of both jaws; nose obtuse; eyes small; no external ears; tail very short and beset, with stiff hairs; feet distinct, and five toed; claws roundish, and slightly bent.

† A very large specimen, perhaps a variety of this mole, is at present in the possession of Mr. Villet, and differs from the common sort by having a large white blotch on the forehead.

Near Cape Town it is found in abundance, not only in the gardens about Muizenberg, Wynberg, &c. but also about Green Point, and all over the sand flats which lie between Table Bay and False Bay. It is also met with along the eastern coast, as well as on various parts of the northern shore, but never in such quantities as in the other situations just mentioned. It generally lives upon bulbs and succulent roots, but where it enters the garden most cultivated, vegetables suffer from its teeth, more especially, however, potatoes, and such like.

A. No. 28.

Bles Mol of the Dutch.

White-faced Mole of the English.

Georchus Capensis of Naturalists.

The general colour of this little species as some of its local names import, is more or less allied to grey, yet, in many instances, that hue is far from being distinct, at least above, where it is even, perhaps, more commonly a light brown, or a dirty tawny, and of the deepest tinge in the oldest specimens. The head is black or blackish brown; the nose and chin are white, as well as a small spot on the crown of the head, and another in the site of each eye, and also of each ear. The eyes are very small; the ears are without lobes, or external appendages; the legs are short; the feet have long toes, and all of them, but particularly those of the fore ones, armed with strong claws. The tail is very short, flat, and beset with stiff, grey hairs; the fore teeth cannot be covered by the lips; the mouth is small and entirely concealed by the former unless where the jaws are open; and when the animal is in motion, from the shortness of the legs, its belly all but touches the ground. It usually measures about seven or eight inches in length, and its whole appearance is indicative of considerable strength. It is like the last described sort, of an extremely ferocious disposition, and attacks, without discrimination, whatever comes in its way. It bites with great severity, and so strong are its jaws, and such is its determination, that when once it has got a hold, it can hardly be detached again without breaking its teeth; and in instances in

which that has been done, I have seen it upon fresh provocation return to the charge, apparently unconscious or indifferent to what it had previously lost. On one occasion, I put one of them into a large box, in which a horned snake* was confined, which it instantly attacked, and bit so severely, as to cause its death; but previous, however, to that being produced, the snake retaliated by a similar mode of treatment, and in consequence of one bite the mole died in ten minutes.

This kind is much more generally distributed over the country than the larger species, and is found most abundant where high cultivation exists, more especially in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, where it proves a most destructive intruder on gardens, &c. It is also, however, occasionally met with throughout the interior districts, even in spots far removed from the residence of man, there forming its burrows in places where the smaller bulbs are abundant, and of a description agreeable to its palate and suitable for its food.

A. No. 29.

Blinde Mol of the Dutch.

Chrysochloris Capensis of Naturalists.**

The ground colour of this mole is a sort of reddish brown, that varies in intensity according to circumstances, but is always more or less shaded with brilliant metallic tinges, which are either green, yellow, or purple, according to the quantity and the direction of the light to which the skin is exposed.† The nose is rather sharp and lengthened, with its sides, in some specimens, inclined to white; the external ears are wanting, as is also the tail and eyes; the legs are short; the fore feet have only three claws, of which the exterior is by far the largest, and the hinder ones have five, but of a very slender and weak description. In size it is considerably inferior to the common European mole, and its motion, when above ground, is invariably slow.

* *Vipera Armata*. *Smith*.

** Characters of the genus *Chrysochloris*.—Front teeth above two, below four; tusks, three on each side, both above and below; grinders, six above and five below; nose lengthened; eyes wanting, as is also the external ears and tail; fore feet with four toes, and hinder ones with four or five.

† I have met with several specimens of this mole entirely white, one of which is now deposited in the Museum.

This is one of the most destructive of the subterranean quadrupeds that inhabit Southern Africa, being found almost wherever cultivation exists, committing its ravages very freely on most of the articles which are planted for the support of man. Like the two last described animals it elevates the ground after the mode of the common European mole, and when necessary it extends its burrows with a rapidity almost incredible, which it effects by means of the strength and peculiar formation of its fore feet. Though it is principally noticed in and about cultivated grounds, yet it also frequently occurs throughout the country, in places yet unexplored by the husbandman, and there it trusts entirely to the products of nature for its support.

A. No. 30.

Roode Kat of the Dutch.

Felis Caracal of Naturalists.

The Caracal, as this animal is called by the English, rather exceeds the jackal in size, and is of a reddish yellow, or a light reddish brown colour, with the exception of the chin, the breast, the belly, and the insides of the legs towards the body, which are of a more or less pure white. The tail is about a foot in length, of equal size throughout, and similar in colour to the upper parts, being like them also variegated a little by an intermixture of white hairs. The outsides of the ears are covered with a very short black hair, among which white is thinly scattered, and the tip of each besides is furnished with a tuft of long hair, partly black and partly white. The face is broad and short; the eyes are large and yellow, with the parts immediately surrounding them inclined to white, which is also the colour of the nose. The length of this species is between two feet four and two feet eight inches, and its height somewhere about a foot.

This is one of the rarest quadrupeds in Southern Africa, and is not found generally throughout the country. It is met with occasionally about Franche Hoek, as well as in the Great Karoo: and there is no doubt, that when the country is more explored, its haunts will become better known, and

its *habitats* will be found to be much more numerous than is at present supposed.

It preys on small quadrupeds, birds, &c. and its skin and fat are in great request amongst persons affected with rheumatism. The former is either placed between the foot and the stocking, or wrapped round the affected part, whilst the latter is sedulously rubbed on the seat of disease.

A. No. 31.

Meer Kat of the Dutch.

Ryzæna Suraktta of Naturalists.*

This mild little animal, though not an universal inhabitant of Southern Africa, is nevertheless found in many parts of it, and is frequently met with perfectly domesticated, and performing all the duties of a common cat. It measures, from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail, about one foot, or from the former to the extremity of the latter eighteen or twenty inches. It is thickly covered with a fine soft reddish coloured fur, that again is freely studded with longer hairs of a grizzled hue, and which at certain times are so long and abundant, that they give the characteristic colour to the whole body, and make it be described as of a grey cast. The head is small, the nose is long, and projects a good deal beyond the under lip; the ears are small, round, and blackish; the whiskers are black; the feet are four-toed; and the tail, whose colour is a mixture of red, greyish white, and blackish brown, tapers to a sharpish point, which is covered with black hair.

It feeds on rats, mice, lizards, &c. and in a state of captivity, has been known in Cape Town, to produce two young ones at a birth.

* Characters of the genus *Ryzæna*.—Front teeth, six; tusks, acute, conical, and longer than the last; grinders, six on each side of both jaws; nose lengthened; ears small and roundish; fore part of tongue with prickles, directed backwards; hair of different lengths; tail long; two glandular follicles near the anus; feet, four-toed; claws, sharp and curved; those on the fore feet the longest.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS.

Genus,—A division of Natural objects, which, for the most part, includes several species, all of which are closely allied to each other, by certain fixed and common characters.

Species,—An object which possesses certain subordinate characters *peculiar to itself*, and independent of those which distinguish a Genus, is called a Species.

Anus,—The termination of the bowels.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

The animal described at page 14, under the name of Strand Wolf, and which is at present alive, having now nearly reached its full growth, begins to exhibit characters which give reason to consider it as a new species, and not the real Hyæna. Should further observations prove such to be the case, the various points which mark the difference, together with the specific name selected for its designation, will be given in the continuation of "Mammalia."

The animal called Tyger Kat in page 8, is also in different parts of the colony, known by the name of Luipaard.

The Tyger Bosch Kat is occasionally only called Tyger Kat, particularly in those places where the term Luipaard is employed, to designate that animal which is called in this Catalogue—the Tyger Kat.

The Blauwe Bokje is likewise known amongst the Colonists, by the name of Nummetie.

Page 23, line 2,—for Blauw Bok, *read* Blauwe Bokje. This distinction ought to be kept in recollection, because the real Blauwe Bok is a very large species of Antelope.

Page 32, line 11,—for Suraktta, *read* Surikatta; also, read the same in the Index when the name occurs.

Index, line 7,—for Georgehus, *read* Georychus.

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