

XXXVII.—Description of some new Asiatic Mammals and Chelonia. By JOHN ANDERSON, M.D., Calcutta.

Anurosorex assamensis, n. sp.

Snout rather long and pointed; tail very short, as in the type of the genus. The seminude parts of the snout, the scaly limbs, and tail are flesh-coloured; the claws are yellow. The fur is nearly erect, fine, and almost velvety; it is longest on the rump, where it projects backwards a considerable way over the tail, almost hiding it. Numerous strong hairs project beyond the general mass of the fur, and are brown with obscure pale tips. Whiskers well developed; shorter hairs above and between the eyes. The general colour of the face dark slaty, marked with brownish rusty on the long hairs of the rump.

Total length from snout to root of tail 2.92 inches, tail 0.50, fore foot 0.50, hind foot 0.75.

Hab. Subsasugu, Assam.

This species is smaller than the Tibetan *A. squamipes*, from which it also differs in its proportionally larger head and slightly longer tail.

Herpestes Rafflesii, n. sp.

Uniformly rich ferruginous, palex on the head and feet. The hairs with no trace of annulation, and in this respect differing from all other Asiatic mungoses; the longer hairs with a glossy lustre; the underlying pile dense and of a pale ferruginous. Ears clad with short hairs. Feet rather large; claws moderately developed. Upper third of tarsus thickly clad. Tail well clad at base, tapering to a point, and neither tufted nor pencilled.

The specimen is in the British Museum, and was received from Sumatra, whence it was obtained by Sir Stamford Raffles. It is a small animal, and I have not been able to take its measurements; but it is a little larger than a ferret, and has a tail as long as its body.

I am indebted to Dr. Günther for the opportunity of describing this animal.

Pteromys yunnanensis, n. sp.

A flying squirrel with a large head and a long tail.

Rich dark glossy maroon-chestnut on all the upper parts, the head and back in some being finely speckled with white, which is most marked in the young, and most profuse

on the posterior half of the back. In the adult the upper surface of the parachute is of the same colour as the back, and the hairs are uniformly coloured; but in younger individuals some of the hairs have white rings. The sides of the face below the eye and ear are yellowish grey mixed with chestnut, and the chin is dusky. The paws and the margins of the limbs are rich black. The base of the tail in young individuals is more or less concolorous with the back and grizzled; but in adults the grizzling is absent, but the first six or seven inches are chestnut, the hairs being broadly tipped with black, and passing gradually into that colour, which characterizes the rest of the tail. The under parts of the animal are yellowish white, tending in some to a chestnut line along the middle of the chest and belly, and to a darker tint of the same colour on the margin of the parachute. The basal portion of the fur of the upper parts is dark greyish brown, followed by a palish chestnut band, succeeded by dark maroon-chestnut, which may either have or not have a white subapical band, the tip being glossy deep maroon-chestnut, in some verging on black. The fur of the upper parts and tail is long, soft, and silky, while that of the under surface is more woolly in texture. The ears are large and rounded, and clad with very short hairs. Cheek-bridles present.

Length of body 24 inches, the tail being the same.

Hab. Neighbourhood of Zengyechen, Yunnan.

Arctomys dichrous, n. sp.

This marmot, four specimens of which have been procured from the mountainous country to the north of Kabul, differs from every known marmot in the marked contrast between the colour of the upper and under parts of the animal, and in the harsh texture of its fur.

It has the general form and structural characters of its fellows; but the upper surface is pale rusty yellow, while the sides of the face are dark brown, tinged with the former colour. The chin, throat, chest, and the lower third of the sides, the inferior two thirds of the fore limb, the upper surface of the hind feet, the belly, and inner side of the limbs are all a dark rich brown. The tail is almost concolorous with the belly; but it is here and there tinged with rich rufous brown, the tip paling to nearly yellowish brown.

Length of body from snout to root of tail 17 inches; length of tail 6½ inches.

A full description and figure of this animal will appear in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London.

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Geoemyda depressa, n. sp.

Shell much depressed, the depression increasing from before backwards, the shell being somewhat expanded across the inguinal region. Anterior border broad and posterior slightly concave; posterior margin behind inguinal notch serrated. Vertebrae with an obscure ridge. Anal notch moderately deep. Nuchal small. Gulars well developed, anterior border transverse. Shell above light brown, with a blackish tinge on the external border of the marginals. Sternum rather clear yellow; the interval between the axillary and inguinal notches deep black, the outer halves of the pectoral and anal plates being blackish brown, with a partial reticulation extending across the plates; the gulars, postgulars, and anals have also a tendency to be coarsely and irregularly reticulated with the same colour.

Head of animal rather small; upper and lower jaws deep, and area below the nose slightly convex. Limbs large, especially the hind legs; claws strong, and webs well developed. The anterior aspect of the lower part of the fore leg convex, with large umbonate scales, and smaller scales on the dorsum of the foot, a large scale being at the base of each claw. Hind limb covered with small scales, but with a line of enlarged scales along its posterior margin. Tail moderately long, and covered with small rounded scales. The neck-skin loose, and covered with minute scales. Head (in life) leaden; iris brown; neck and skin of limbs pale yellowish brown. Large scales on limbs dark, almost black, with brownish margin.

Length of shell to caudal notch 9 inches, depth through centre of shell 3, breadth at axillary region 5.9, breadth across inguinal notch 6.7; length of sternum 8.1.

Hab. Arakan.

Trionyx nigricans, n. sp.

Carapace rather flattened on the back, with the vertebral groove ill defined anteriorly, but well marked posteriorly. Nuchal swelling broader than in *T. gangeticus*, but not prominent, the carapace on either side being flattened. Ala of plastron well defined, projecting equally beyond the carapace. Nuchal flap narrow, and covered with rather large nodose folds; and the hinder portion of the cartilaginous margin of the carapace with little nodosities. The rugosities of the osseous carapace coarser than in *T. gangeticus*. The under surface of the thighs and tail and of all the soft parts, including the head and neck, covered with little papillæ. No trace of rugosities on the azygos plate of the plastron visible

through the skin. The tail in the female does not reach to the margin of the cartilaginous portion of the carapace.

Colour of the carapace dark blackish plumbeous, with a tinge of olive, due to the presence of blackish spots, among which are intermixed many rusty brown spots, which overlie as it were the black spots. The head, neck, and upper surface of the limbs are almost black; the upper lip in its two posterior thirds is white; and there is a great white blotch over the ear. The area between the neck and the fore legs is whitish; and there are some white spots on the margin of the carapace. The head is reticulately spotted; and there is a distinct infrapreorbital band, and a trace of another above the eyes; but the head is so black that these markings are difficult to distinguish. The under surface of the head and neck is almost black; and the plastron is densely spotted with blackish purple, especially over the bones, and the tail is similarly marked. The claws are yellow.

Hab. Tanks at Chittagong, Bengal.

XXXVIII.—Further Contributions to the Ornithology of Australia. By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S.

It is with great pleasure that I have to draw the attention of naturalists to some interesting novelties which have just been forwarded to me from Australia by Mr. Waterhouse, whose letter on the subject is subjoined.

“South-Australian Museum,
Adelaide, South Australia.
July 15, 1875.

“MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. F. W. Andrews, who for many years has been collecting birds in this colony, and has added from time to time many rare species to the Museum, has just returned from the Lake-Eyre expedition with a good collection of bird-skins. Among the specimens collected I have selected, and now forward to you by this mail, the following, viz. :—

“2 *Amytis*, n. sp., nearly allied to *A. textilis*, but smaller, general colour much lighter; throat white, flanks (probably of the male only) with a rufous streak.

“1 *Cinclsoma cinnamomeum*, sent for comparison, being lighter-coloured and smaller than any specimens which have hitherto come under my observation.

“2 *Ptilotis*, sp. I have frequently received specimens of this bird from the far north, and am doubtful as to the species.

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