

ART. XLIV. *Descriptions of three new Species of Land Tortoises ;* by THOMAS BELL, Esq., F.L.S., F.G.S.

Ordo. TESTUDINATA. Merrem.

Fam. TESTUDINIDÆ. nobis.

Gen. TESTUDO. Auct.

ACTINODES. *T. scutis dorsalibus elevatis, nigris, luteo radiatis : scuto antico marginali impari nullo.*

Habitat in Africâ. Mus. nostr.

Tab. Suppl. XXIII.

Description. Head large, thick, black with yellow spots. Fore feet furnished anteriorly with numerous, large, black and yellow scales. The thighs with a few similar ones, but larger and of a conical form. Tail short, tuberculated. Shell elevated, ovate, the margin anteriorly notched, posteriorly denticulated. The whole of the scuta sulcated, black with regular yellow radiations, and with large yellow areolæ. The dorsal scuta, especially the vertebral, elevated, somewhat conical, and slightly turned backwards. Marginal scuta xxiii, viz.: eleven pairs, and a posterior single one. The nine posterior projecting and acuminated, thus forming a deeply serrated outline. The last marginal plate very broad, nearly vertical, but slightly incurved. Sternum yellow with distinct black radiations passing from the areola of each plate to its circumference; anteriorly bifid, posteriorly with a deep lunate emargination.

Dimensions of the shell.

	in.	lin.
Length	8	: 5
Breadth	5	: 3
Height	5	: 0
Length of the sternum	7	: 5
Circumference	16	: 0

TENTORIA. *T. scutis dorsalibus conicis, acutis, nigris, luteo radiatis; scuto marginali antico impari.*

Habitat in Africâ? Mus. nostr.

Tab. Suppl. XXIV.

Description. Shell subglobose. Scuta sulcated, black, radiated with yellow lines which encrease in breadth towards the circumference; areolæ extremely small, yellow. Dorsal scuta conical, much elevated, acuminated at the apex. Marginal scuta xxiv, viz.: eleven pairs, and an anterior and posterior single one. The anterior extremely small, short, and turned up at the point: the first pair very thick, projecting, bent downwards at the points: the lateral thick, convex, and solid, with the points all turned backwards: the posterior single plate projecting and angular. Sternum narrowed behind, with a deep acute emargination; deep uniform brown in the middle through the whole length, and pure light yellow at the sides. In the only specimen which I possess, the anterior lobe of the sternum is wanting.

Dimensions of the shell.

	in.	lin.
Length	4	3
Breadth	3	3
Height :	2	6
Circumference	9	4

PARDALIS. *T. testâ flavescente, nigro maculatâ; scutorum costalium areolis prope marginem superiorem positis; scuto marginali antico impari nullo.*

Habitat. in Promont. Bonæ Spei. Mus. nostr.

Tab. Suppl. XXV.

Description. Head elongate, of an uniform dull brown colour, which also pervades the neck, feet, and tail, but with occasional shades of dirty yellow. Neck very long. Feet robust, furnished with strong conical and triangular scales, which protect the anterior and inferior parts of the fore feet, and the posterior and

inferiour parts of the hinder ones ; two of these scales, particularly strong and thick, are placed on the back part of each thigh near the tail. Claws long and thick. Tail short, tapering, and tuberculated. Shell very deep, and formed almost exactly like that of *T. Indica*. Scuta flat, sulcated, of a dirty light yellow colour, with numerous large irregular black spots, as if splashed, but assuming in a slight degree a radiating direction. The areolæ of the vertebral scuta a little elevated; those of the costal scuta placed very near their upper margin towards their junction with the vertebral; which character constitutes almost the only distinction of importance between this species and *T. Indica*, excepting the colour. Marginal scuta xxiii, very deep, the anterior and posterior ones turned slightly outwards approaching a horizontal direction. The posterior single one nearly vertical. Sternum with a small emargination before, and a large lunate one for the tail. The colour a dirty yellow, with black radiating spots towards the circumference of each plate.

The specimen from which this description is given is still living, and has been in my possession since the commencement of the Summer, during which time it has had the range of a small orchard, feeding heartily on grass, which it plucked with a movement similar to that of a goose. The neck is so extensile as to permit the head to be raised above the level of the top of the back, and thus to enable the animal to look around on all sides by merely turning the head. It is the largest known species of land Tortoise excepting *T. Indica*.

Dimensions of the shell.

	ft.	in.	lin
Direct length	1	: 5	: 0
Length following the curvature	2	: 0	: 0
Breadth	0	: 11	: 0
Height	0	: 8	: 5
Length of the sternum	1	: 3	: 0
Circumference	2	: 8	: 0