

pitheci, until by an examination of its posterior molars its real station in the system should be determined.

It is thus characterized :

SEMIN.? ALBOGULARIS, Sykes. *Semn.?* *suprà flavo nigroque; infrà albo nigroque irroratus; gula albâ; artubus nigris: mystacibus latix aures pendè obvelantibus; superciliorum pilis rigidis exstantibus.*

Hab. in Madagascar ?

Its canines are remarkably long (nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch), slender, sharp; the incisors very short and even. Head rounded and short. Ears very small, nearly rounded, and for the most part concealed in the long hair about the head. Eyes deeply seated, and shaded by a continuous arch of long hairs directed forwards. *Irides* broad; of a brown ochre colour. Hair forming a bunch on each cheek and resembling whiskers: no beard. Cheek pouches rudimentary only, not observable externally, even when filled, being concealed by the bushy hair of the cheeks. Thumbs of anterior hands short and distant; those of the posterior long. Whole of the upper surface of the animal of a mingled black and yellowish ochre colour, each hair being banded black and ochre; the black prevailing on the shoulders, the ochre on the back and flanks. Under surface grizzled white and black. Anterior limbs uniform black; posterior black with a little of the dorsal colour. Chin and throat pure white. Tail black, half as long again as the body.

The manners of this monkey are grave and sedate. Its disposition is gentle but not affectionate: free from that capricious petulance and mischievous irascibility characteristic of so many of the African species, but yet resenting irritating treatment, and evincing its resentment by very smart blows with its anterior hands. It never bit any person on board ship, but so seriously lacerated three monkeys, its fellow passengers, that two of them died from the wounds. It readily ate meat; and would choose to pick a bone, even when plentifully supplied with vegetables and dried fruits.

Mr. Gray exhibited a specimen of a *Tortoise* which he regarded as the type of a new genus in the family *Emydidae*. It is characterized as follows :

PLATYSTERNON.

Sternum latum, anticè truncatum, posticè emarginatum. Scutella sterni 12: quorum duo anteriora brevia, lata, per totam sterni latitudinem extensa. Symphysis scutellorum pectoralium abdominaliumque extremitatibus tecta: scutellis axillari inguinalique mycenis; inter quæ scutellum tertium accessorium iis simile; scutella hæc tria in suturam symphysis inserta.

Caput maximum, cute cornè continuè tectum. Cauda longissima, teres, attenuata; superne serie unica, inferne duplici, squamarum tecta; haud cristata.

This genus is intermediate between *Emys* and *Chelydra*. It has

the broad *sternum* and simple tail of the former genus; and possesses, in common with the latter, a large head; and the peculiar plates which are situated between the outer extremities of the pectoral and abdominal, and the marginal dorsal plates. It differs from *Chelydra*, however, in the peculiar plate which covers the *symphysis* of the *sternum* being here comparatively very small, not exceeding in size the axillary and inguinal plates, and in its being inserted in the same line with them.

The only species known was characterized as the

PLATYSTERNON MEGACEPHALUM. *Plat. capite brunneo, obscure nigro radiato: testâ superne saturatè brunneâ, infra pallidè flavâ: marginibus scutellorum sulcis aliquot obscuris strisque radiantibus confertis.*

Long. testæ, $3\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; sterni, $2\frac{1}{2}$; latitudo testæ, $2\frac{1}{2}$; sterni anticæ, $2\frac{1}{2}$; long. capitis $2\frac{1}{2}$; caudæ, 3.

Hab. in Chinâ.

In illustration of the conterminous genus *Emys*, Mr. Gray exhibited a specimen of the *Em. Caspica*, Schw., recently obtained from the Mediterranean.

Mr. Gray also exhibited a specimen of the animal (*Ocythoë*) found in the shells of the genus *Argonauta*, in illustration of some observations on the disputed question of its parasitic or non-parasitic nature. He stated that he had lately examined ten specimens, four of them referable to *Ocythoë Cranchii*, and the remainder to *Ocythoë antiquorum*; there being, however, little to distinguish them except the size. All these specimens, as well as all those which have been figured, were females, and had eggs inclosed in the hinder part of the shell, in the cavity which is uniformly found behind the body of the animal. In all, the posterior *siphon* was placed more or less exactly in the keel of the shell, but the body did not always occupy a symmetrical position with regard to it, the eye of one side being sometimes nearer to the spire than that of the opposite side. Only one or two of these individuals had their bodies marked with the ridges of the shells, the impressions of which were, however, mostly observable upon the arms. The animals all appeared to be retained in the shells by the inflection of the anterior pair of arms. Mr. Gray added that he had also lately seen several specimens preserved without shells, and having their bodies shaped exactly like that of the common *Octopus*, without the slightest appearance of their having been inclosed in shells: the history of these specimens he was unable to trace, and he could not therefore affirm that they were found in the state in which he observed them.

From these facts Mr. Gray stated that he was inclined to regard it as probable that the *Ocythoë* is only parasitic in the shell of *Argonauta*; that the shells are only resorted to by females during the breeding season for the protection of their eggs; and that the chief purpose of the dilated portion of the anterior arms is to retain the