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very sparingly ringed with dusky black. The ear has internally a long tuft of hairs of the same colour with those of the whiskers. The outer side of the hinder limbs, the hands excepted, is yellowish grizzled with black, their colour being intermediate in intensity between the lightest portion of the sides and the whiskers. The under surface of the body, the insides of the limbs, and the under surface of the proximal two-thirds of the tail, are reddish yellow.

In colouring, this species differs remarkably from every known *Monkey*.

The specimen is without a skull.

A specimen was exhibited of the *black Lemur*, *Lemur niger*, Geoff., which had recently been added to the Society's Menagerie. In calling the attention of the Society to it, Mr. Bennett stated his belief that this was the first individual of the species which had fallen under the observation of zoologists since the days of Edwards, its original describer, who saw and figured one which was living in 1755 in the possession of a surgeon in London. The description and figure given by Edwards have consequently been hitherto the only proofs of the existence of such an animal.

Mr. Bennett added that the *black Lemur* is the type of the *Lemur Macaco*, Linn.; and that the *Vari*, to which the name of *Lem. Macaco* has been applied by modern authors, is given by Linnæus as the Var. d. of that species. Custom having, however, transferred the specific name to the variety, he deemed it better to acquiesce in the use which has obtained, leaving to the *Vari* the name of *Lem. Macaco*, and to the *black Lemur* that of *Lem. niger*.

Specimens were exhibited of various *Mammalia*, *Birds*, and *Reptiles*, from the continent of India, which had been recently presented to the Society by Thomas Heath, Esq. Mr. Bennett observed on the several objects, pointing out especially the more interesting among them. They included an individual apparently referrible to the *Semnopithecus cucullatus*, Isid. Geoff. St.-Hil., although darker in all its markings than is indicated in the description given by the original observer of the species. They also included a species of *Felis*, of a size intermediate between the larger and the smaller animals of that genus, and having in its grey colour and longitudinal striping a general external resemblance to some of the *Viverræ*. This Mr. Bennett regarded as new to science, and proposed to designate it

FELIS VIVERRINUS. Fel. fulvo-cinereus, subtus albescens; capite, nucha, dorso, genis, gularique nigro vittatis; lateribus, ventre, pedibusque nigro maculatis.

Long. corporis cum capite, 33 unc.; caudæ mutilæ, 7; auriculæ, 1½.

The prevailing colour of the upper surface is a rather deep yellowish grey, the separate hairs being dusky at the base, yellowish in the middle, and having short black tips. The black lines and spots are formed of hairs destitute of yellow, and having the black tips of much

greater length. A longitudinal black band passes on each side, from the inner *canthus* of the eye above the ear nearly to the shoulder; a second, more internally, passes to the same distance backwards, and is somewhat interrupted anteriorly; and between this and its fellow on the *vertex* is the vestige of a median line, which on the forehead is broken up into a double row of spots; these and the two adjoining lines subdivide in front into numerous very small spots between the eyes. Two black lines pass downwards obliquely on either side from below the eye, over the angle of the jaw; and from their terminations on each side there passes a transverse band across the throat: the space between these lines is nearly white, as is also a stripe over each eye, and the whole of the under jaw and chin. There is a large black spot surrounding the base of the ear posteriorly, and the ear is also tipped with black. The long, linear markings of the back are disposed in about five interrupted, longitudinal bands, and some of the spots on the sides assume a linear form. Of these the most remarkable are, one on each side of the neck, and an oblique wavy band on the shoulder. The spots on the sides generally approach a rounded shape, and form, posteriorly, four or five interrupted longitudinal rows. Those of the under surface are larger, and are arranged without order. On the fore limbs the spots are small externally, and internally there are on each two large transverse black patches. On the hinder limbs the spots are arranged so as to form interrupted transverse bands on both surfaces. The hairs of the soles of the feet are dusky brown. The tail is spotted above in the same manner as the sides; its colour beneath is uniform. The spots are throughout numerous. The whiskers are white, and take their origin from three black lines on either side.

The species is nearly allied to *Felis Serval*, Schreb., but will readily be distinguished by the characters above given, by the comparative shortness and strength of its limbs, and by the locality whence it was obtained.

Specimens were exhibited of three species of *Toucan*, hitherto apparently undescribed, which form part of the Society's Museum. At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Gould pointed out their distinguishing characteristics. He described them as

RHAMPHASTOS SWAINSONII. *Rhamph. ater*; *vertice nuchaque rufo tinctis*; *guttore luteo, abdomen versus lineâ albâ alteraque coccinea cincto*; *tectricibus caudæ superioribus albis, inferioribus coccineis.*

Long. 18 unc.; *caudæ*, $6\frac{1}{2}$; *alæ*, 9; *tarsi*, $1\frac{1}{4}$. *Rostris* long. $5\frac{1}{2}$; alt., $2\frac{1}{2}$; *culminis* ad basin lat., $1\frac{1}{8}$.

Hab. in montosis Columbiæ.

The pure whiteness of the upper tail-coverts is an important character of this bird; but its most distinctive feature is in the markings of its bill, which presents three distinct and contrasted colours, disposed obliquely from the base to the point. The base of the lower part of the upper mandible, as well as the entire base of the under, is of a rich salmon colour, bounded by a narrow line of black on the upper mandible, the point of the lower being entirely of the

Fishing cat (*Felis viverrinus*)

E. T. Bennett, 1833

Characters of a New Species of Cat (*Felis*, Linn.) from the Continent of
India

Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London

Pages 68-69

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