

THE CAT.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

OF

BACKBONED ANIMALS

ESPECIALLY

MAMMALS.

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WITH 200 ILLUSTRATIONS

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
743 AND 745 BROADWAY
1892

(10.) THE BAY CAT (*Felis aurata*).*

This is a large one-coloured cat, and a very distinct species. It is from twenty-eight to thirty-one inches long from snout to tail, while the tail measures sixteen or nineteen inches. It is a bay-red above, paler beneath and on the sides, with a few indistinct spots on the flanks. The throat is whitish, while the tip of the tail and the ears, internally, are blackish. The ventral surface is reddish white, spotted brown. There are two black streaks on each cheek, with a pale black-edged line over the eyes.

The pupil is said by Hodgson to be round.

According to Mr. Jerdon it inhabits Nepal and Sikim. Dr. Gray adds as habitats, Sumatra and Borneo, and one (received by the Zoological Society from Amsterdam) is said to be from Sumatra.

(11.) THE FISHING CAT (*Felis viverrina*).†

This well-marked and very distinct species was originally described by Bennett in 1833, and the type of the species is preserved in the British Museum.

Its hair is short and rather coarse. Though usually of a general dark grey colour (darkest on the back), specimens may occasionally be found of a reddish grey ground tint. It is always covered with dark brown spots, smallest and least conspicuous on the shoulders. The head and back have three or four dark brown lines going lengthwise, which, however, upon the lower back and rump become broken up into spots like those on the flanks and other parts. Two blackish brown lines pass across the cheek, one from behind and one from beneath the eye, and a line of the same hue crosses the throat just below the chin. Throat and breast white, the latter crossed by three or four blackish brown lines passing from shoulder to shoulder. Belly same colour as flanks, spotted with blackish brown in continuous lines crosswise. Inside of legs greyish white, with from two to three dark brown bars crossing the upper part near the body. Tail rather short, slender, same colour as the back, barred above with chestnut brown, the bars going diagonally, and meeting in the centre, forming a V-shaped mark; tip chestnut brown. Underneath greyish white. Length of head and body, thirty to thirty-two inches; length of tail, nine to twelve inches. The skull is elongated above. The orbits are completely encircled by bone. The first upper is present but is very small.

* *Felis aurata*, Jerdon's Mammals of British India, p. 107; *F. moormensis*, Hodgson; *F. Temminckii*, Vigors; *Leopardus auratus*, Gray; Cat. Brit. Mus., p. 12.

† Bennett, Pro. Zool. Soc., 1833, p. 68. It is described in Mr. Elliot's Monograph, from which the above figure

is taken. It is also described by Jerdon in his Mammals of British India, p. 103. It is the animal named *Viverriceps Benettii*, by Dr. Gray, in his Catalogue of the Carnivora, p. 17, Fig. 5, and in Pro. Zool. Soc., 1867, p. 286, Fig. 5, which figure has been here reproduced.

Mr. Jerdon says that the pupil is circular. He also tells us that *F. viverrina* "is found throughout Bengal to the foot of the south-eastern Himalayas, extending into Burmah, China, and Malayana,



Fig. 170.—THE FISHING CAT (*F. viverrina*)

and that it is common in Travancore and Ceylon, extending up the Malabar coast as far as Mangalore."

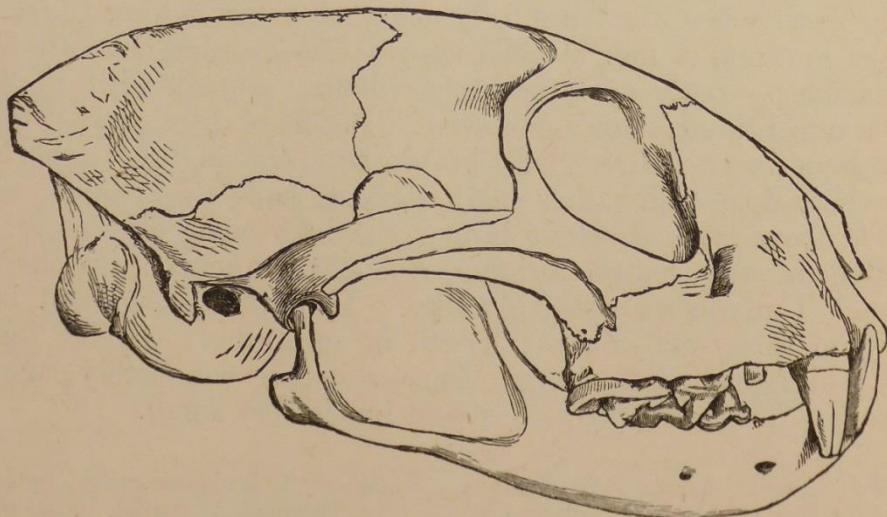


Fig. 171.—SKULL OF *F. viverrina*.

Mr. Buchanan says that besides fish it eats *Ampulluriae* and *Unios*, and that it has a very disagreeable smell. It is exceedingly fierce, and has been known to carry off children.