

The TANREC and the TENDRAC,
or ASIATIC HEDGEHOG*.

THE *Tanrecs* or *Tendrac*s are small East Indian animals which have some resemblance to our hedgehog, but differ so much from it as to constitute a distinct species. This is apparent,

* The *Tendrac*, or Asiatic hedgehog, with a long slender snout, short rounded ears, and short legs. The upper part of the body is covered with short spines, white, and marked cross the middle with rust colour. The face, throat, belly, buttocks, and legs, are thinly covered with whitish, fine, but hard hair. The tail is very short, and covered with spines. About the nose there are some hairs above two inches long. It is of the size of a mole.

The other, or the *Tanrec*, is rather larger. It is covered with spines only on the top and hind part of the head, the top and sides of the neck, and the shoulders; the longest were on the upper part of the neck, and stood erect. The rest of the body was covered with yellowish bristles, among which were intermixed some that were black, and much longer than the others. Each of these animals, which are varieties of the same species, had five toes on each foot; Pennant's *Synops* of *Zoöl.* p. 317.

Eriacus Americanus albus; *Seba*, *zool.* i. p. 78. *tab.* 49. *fig.* 3.—This hedgehog, which Seba says was sent to him from Amboyna, has so strong a resemblance to the *tendrac*, that it may be the same animal; and, if it is a native of Madagascar, it ought not to be found in America. With regard to this animal, Seba is wrong in every article; for it neither belongs to America, nor is it white, but only less brown than our European hedgehog.

independent

independent of inspection or comparison; for they never roll themselves up into a ball, like the hedgehog; and besides, the *tanrecs* are found in Madagascar, where there are also hedgehogs of the same kind with ours, which bear not the name of *tanrec*, but are called *Sora**.

There seems to be two species, or perhaps two races of *tanrecs*: The first, which is nearly as large as our hedgehog, has a muzzle proportionally longer than the second; its ears are also more apparent, and it has fewer bristles than the other, to which we have given the name of *Tendrac*, to distinguish it from the first. This *tendrac* is not larger than a large rat. Its muzzle and ears are shorter than those of the *tanrec*, which last is covered with smaller bristles, but equally numerous with those of the hedgehog. The *tendrac*, on the contrary, has no spines but on the head, the neck, and the withers, the rest of the body being covered with coarse hair, like hogs bristles.

These small animals, which have short legs, move very slowly. They grunt and wallow in the mire like hogs †. They are fond of water, in which they dwell longer than upon land. They are caught in salt water, in canals, and in small gulfs of the sea. They are very ardent

* Voyage a Madagascar, par Flacourt, p. 152.

† Recueil des Voyages qui ont servi à l'Établissement de la Compagnie des Indes de Hollande, tom. i. p. 412.

in their amours, and multiply greatly*. They dig holes in the ground, into which they retire, and lie in a torpid state during several months. In this state, their hair falls off, which grows again after they awake. They are generally very fat; and, though their flesh be insipid and reedy, the Indians eat it with pleasure.

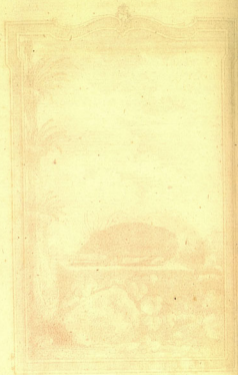
* Relation de Fr. Cauche, p. 127. — Voyages de la Compagnie des Indes de Hollande, p. 412.

Plate CXXII.



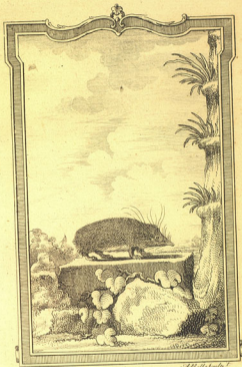
TANREC.

MEMOIRE



MEMOIRE

Plate CCXIII.



A. B. S. del.

TENDRAC.