

The TARSIER, or WOOLLY  
JERBOA\*.

WE accidentally procured this animal from a person who could neither tell its name, nor from whence it came. It is remarkable for the excessive length of its hind legs. The bones of the feet, and particularly those which compose the upper part of the *tarsus*, are prodigiously long; and it is from this distinctive character that we have derived the name of the animal. The tarsier, however, is not the only quadruped whose hind legs are constructed in this manner. The tarsus of the Egyptian jerboa is still longer. Hence the appellation of *tarsier* is only precarious, and ought to be changed as soon as we learn the name which the animal receives in the country where it is produced. The jerboa is found in Egypt, Barbary, and the East

\* The jerboa with a sharp pointed nose, long, erect, naked, transparent ears, large eyes, two cutting teeth in each jaw, and, what is peculiar to this species, two canine teeth in each. It has five long slender fingers on each foot, resembling those of a monkey. The fore legs are moderately long. The hind legs are of a very remarkable length, especially the second bone; that next the foot is slender and naked. The tail is exceedingly long and slender. The hair on the body is long, soft, and woolly. The head is ash-coloured, and the rest of the body tawny, mixed with ash-colour. It is larger than a common mouse; *Ferussac's Synops. of Quad. p. 298.*

Indies. I at first imagined that the tarsier might belong to the same countries, on account of its resemblance to the jerboa. Both these animals are of the size of a middling rat. The hind legs of both are excessively long, and those before very short. In both, the tail is of a prodigious length, and garnished towards the extremity with long hairs. Both have very large eyes, and erect, large, open ears. In both, the inferior part of the hind legs are naked, while the rest of the body is covered with hair. As these animals possess, in common, such peculiar characters, it might be presumed that they were neighbouring species, or, at least, species produced by the same climate and country. From a comparison of their other parts, however, this is rendered extremely doubtful. The tarsier has five toes on all his feet, and may be said to have four hands; for his five toes are very long, and well separated. The thumbs of the hind feet terminate in a flat nail; and, though the nails of the other toes be pointed, they are so short and small, that the animal can use its fore feet in the same manner as hands. The jerboa, on the contrary, has only four toes, and four long crooked claws on the fore feet; and, instead of a thumb, it has only a tubercle without any nail. But, what removes these animals to a greater distance, the jerboa has but three toes, or three large claws, on the hind feet. This distinction is too great for animals nearly allied in species; and

Plate CCXX.



TARSIER.

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