

The LORIS, or TAILLESS
MAUCAUCO*.

THE loris is a small animal of Ceylon, which is very remarkable for the elegance of its figure, and the singularity of its conformation. Of all animals, its body is, perhaps, the

* Maucanco with a small head, sharp pointed snout, orbis furrowed with a black circle, and a white space between them. From the top of the head, along the middle of the back, to the rump, there is a dark ferruginous line, which on the forehead is bifurcated. The ears are small. The body is covered with short, soft, and silky ash-coloured, and reddish fur. The toes are naked, and the nails flat; those of the inner toe on each hind foot are long, crooked, and sharp. The length of the animal, from the snout to the rump, is sixteen inches; Pennant's *Synops. of Zool.* p. 135.

Loris, or *loris*, the name given to this animal by the Dutch.

Animal elegantissimum Robinsoni; *Raii, Syn. Zool.* p. 161.

Simia parva ex cinereo fusca, naso productione, brachiis, manibus, pedibusque longis, trisulcis, Belgis *ex loris*. Ex India Orientali; *Mus. Petrop.* p. 339.

Animalculum cynocephalum, Ceylonicum, tardigradum dictum, *simia* species; *Sels,* vol. 1. tab. 35. fig. 1. et 2. *Cercopithecus Cilonicus*, seu tardigradus; *Linn.* tab. 47. fig. 1. *Klein. Zool.* p. 86.

Lemur tardigradus ecaudatus; *Linn. Syst. Nat.* p. 44.

Simia unguibus indicis pedum posteriorum longis, incurvis, et acutis; *Brisson, Zool.* p. 134. *Cynocephalus unguibus indicis longis, incurvis, et acutis*; *Idem.* p. 135.

longest

longest in proportion to its bulk. It has nine lumbar vertebræ, whilst all other quadrupeds have only five, six, or seven. The length of its body is an effect of this structure; and it appears still longer, because it wants a tail. Were it not for this defect of tail, and the uncommon number of vertebræ, it might be comprehended under the list of makis; for it resembles them in the hands and feet, in the quality of the hair, in the number of teeth, and in the pointed muzzle. But, independent of the singularity above taken notice of, which removes this animal from the makis, he has other peculiar qualities. His head is entirely round, and his muzzle is almost perpendicular to this sphere. His eyes are exceedingly large, and very near each other. His ears are large, rounded, and garnished in the inside with three auricles, in the form of a small shell. But, what is still more remarkable, and perhaps peculiar to this animal, the female discharges her urine by the clitoris, which is perforated like the penis of the male; and these two organs have a perfect resemblance to each other, both in figure and size.

Linnaeus has given a short, but excellent description of this animal*. It is likewise very

* *Statura glabra, subferruginea, linea dorsali subfusa; gula albidior, linea longitudinalis oculis interjecta alba. Facies testæ, auriculæ auriculatæ, iatus bifidiatæ; pedum palmae plastraque nuda, ungues rotundati; indicum plantarum vero fubulati. Cauda fere nulla, mammae 2 in pectore, 2 in abdomine versus pectus. Animal tardigradam, auditu excellens; *Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 44.**

well

Platè CCXXXIII.



LORIS.

well represented by Seba; and it appears to be the same animal of which Thevenot speaks in the following terms: 'I saw in the Mogul country, apes which had been brought from Ceylon. They were much esteemed, because they exceeded not the size of a man's hand, and were of an uncommon species. Their front was flat, their eyes large and round, and of a bright yellow colour, like those of certain cats. Their muzzle is very sharp, and the inside of their ears is yellow. They have no tail. . . . When I examined them, they stood on their hind-feet, often embraced each other, and looked steadfastly on the people, without being afraid*.'

* Relation de Thevenot, tom. iii. p. 217.