

The GREAT ANT-EATER*, the
MIDDLE ANT-EATER †, and
the LEAST ANT-EATER ‡.

IN South America, there are three animals,
with a long muzzle, a narrow mouth, with-
out any teeth, and a long round tongue, that
they

* The great ant-eater has a long slender nose, small black eyes, short round ears, a slender tongue, two feet and a half long, which lies double in the mouth; slender legs, four toes on the fore-feet and five on the hind. The two middle claws on the fore-feet are very large, strong, and hooked. The hair on the upper part of the body is half a foot long, black mixed with gray. From the neck cross the shoulders to the sides, there is a black line bounded above with white. The fore legs are whitish, marked above with a black spot. The tail is clothed with very coarse black hairs, a foot long. The length, from nose to tail, is about three feet ten inches, and that of the tail is two feet and a half.

Le Tamanoir, le Fourmillier-tamanoir, le mange-fourmis, le gros mangeur de fourmis.

Tamandua-guaca live major; *Pisón. Hist. Brésil. p. 320.*

Tamandua guacu; *Marc. Hist. Nat. Brésil. p. 225.*

Pémoire-eater; *Nicoboff, p. 19.*

Mange-fourmis, ou Rocard Américain; *Voy. de Deshayes, t. 1. p. 307.*

Tamandua major, cauda panniculata; *Barrère, Hist. Franc. Equinox. p. 163.*

Myrmecophaga jubata, palmis tetradactylis, plantis pentadactylis, cauda jubata; *Linn. Syst. Nat. Klein. Lond. p. 45. tab. 5. fig. 1.*

Myrmecophaga rostris longissimo, pedibus amicis tetradactylis, pollicis pentadactylis, cauda longissimis pilis vestita; *Brisson. Lond. p. 15.*

† The

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they thrust into the ant nests, and retract it when covered with these insects, which constitute their principal food. The first of these ant-eaters is called by the Brazilians *tamandua-guacu*,

† The middle ant-eater has a long slender nose, bending a little down, small black mouth and eyes, and small upright ears. The bottoms of the fore-feet are round, with four claws on each, and five on the hind-feet. The hair is shining, hard, and of a pale yellow colour; along the middle of the back, and on the hind-legs, it is dusky. On each side of the neck, there is a black line, which crosses the shoulders, and meets at the end of the back. The tail is covered with longer hair than the back, is taper, and bald at the end. The length, from nose to tail, is one foot seven inches, and that of the tail ten inches; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 332.

Tamandua-4; *Pisces. Hist. Brasl.* p. 321. *Marsup.* p. 225; *Rail Synops. Quad.* p. 241.

Tamandua minor; *Pisces. Brasl.* p. 320. *Barrere, Hist. France. Equinox.* p. 162.

Tamandua-guacu; *Nicoll's* p. 19.

Myrmecophaga rostris longissima, pedibus anticis tetradactylis, posticis pentadactylis, cauda fere nuda; *Brisson. Quad.* p. 16.

Myrmecophaga tetradactylis, palmis tetradactylis, plantis pentadactylis, cauda calva; *Linæ. Syst. Nat.* p. 52.

‡ The least ant-eater has a conic nose, bending a little down; small ears, hid in the fur; two hooked claws on the fore-feet, the exterior much the largest, and four on the hind-feet. The head, body, limbs, and upper part of the sides of the tail are covered with long, soft, silky hairs, or rather wool, of a yellowish brown colour. The length, from nose to tail, is seven inches and a half, and that of the tail eight and a half, the last four inches of which, on the under side, are naked. The tail is thick at the base, and tapers to a point; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 333.

Le Fourmillier; le plus petit Fourmillier; le petit mangeur de Fourmis; animal Américain que les naturels de la Guinée appellent *Oantirissan*.

Tamandua

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guacu, or *great tamandua*, to which the French inhabitants of America have given the name of *tamanoir*. From the end of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, it is about four feet in length. The head is from fourteen to fifteen inches long, and the tail about two feet and a half, covered with coarse hair more than a foot in length. The muzzle is immoderately long, the neck short, the head narrow, the eyes small and black, the ears roundish, the tongue thin, more than two feet long, and, when retracted, it folds up in the mouth. The legs exceed not a foot in length, those before being a little longer and thinner than those behind. The feet are round. The fore-feet have four claws; and the two middlemost are largest. Those behind have five claws. The colour of the hairs, both on the body and tail, is a mixture of black and white. The hair on the tail is disposed in the form of a plume, which the animal, when he wants to sleep, or to defend himself from rains or the heat of the sun, turns on his back, and it covers his whole body. The long hairs of the

Tamandua minor flavescens; *Barrere, Hist. France. Equinox.* p. 163.

Tamandua fove Coati Americana alba altera; *Schæf.* vol. i. p. 60. tab. 37. fig. 3.

Myrmecophaga didactyla, palmis didactylis, plantis tetradactylis, cauda villosa; *Linæ. Syst. Nat.* p. 51.

Myrmecophaga rostris brevi, pedibus anticis didactylis, posticis tetradactylis; *Brisson. Quad.* p. 17.

The little ant-eater; *Edwards's Glengary*, p. 20.

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tail

tail and body are not round through their whole extent, but flat at the extremities, and feel dry to the touch, like withered herbs. When irritated, he gives a brisk agitation to his tail; but, when walking at ease, he allows it to trail and sweep the ground over which he passes. The hairs on the anterior parts of his body are shorter than those on the posterior: The latter are turned backward, and the former forward. The anterior parts are also whiter than the posterior. There is a black stripe upon the breast, which stretches along the sides, and terminates on the back near the thighs. The hind-legs are nearly black, and those before almost white, with a large black spot about the middle. The great ant-eater runs so slow, that a man can easily overtake him in the chase. His feet seem less fitted for running than for climbing, and seizing cylindrical bodies; for he takes such a forcible hold of a branch or a stick, that it is impossible to make him quit it.

The second of these animals, or the middle ant-eater, is called simply *tamandua* by the Americans. He is much smaller than the former, being only about eighteen inches from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail. His head is six inches in length. His muzzle is long, and crooked downward. The tail is ten inches long, and naked at the point. The ears are erect, and an inch in length. The tongue is round, eight inches long, and placed in a kind of groove or canal within the lower jaw. The height

height of the legs exceeds four inches; and they are of the same form, and furnished with the same number of claws, as the great ant-eater. He climbs, and adheres firmly to the branches, like the former species, and runs or walks equally ill. Neither can he shelter himself with his tail; because it is too short, and part of it is bare. When he sleeps, he conceals his head under his neck and fore legs.

The third species is called by the natives of Guiana *ouatirionau*. To distinguish it from the two former, we have given it the appellation of the *least ant-eater*. It is much smaller than the middle kind; for it exceeds not six or seven inches from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail; the head is two inches long, and the muzzle is proportionally shorter than that of the middle ant-eater. The tail, which is seven inches in length, curls downward at the extremity, where it is naked. The tongue is narrow, a little compressed, and very long. It has almost no neck. The head is thick in proportion to the body. The eyes are placed low, at no great distance from the corners of the mouth. The ears are small, and concealed by the hair. The fore legs are only three inches long, and their feet have but two claws, the outermost of which is much thicker and longer than the innermost. There are four claws on the hind feet. The hair on the body is about nine inches long, soft, and of a brilliant colour, being a mixture

ture of red, with a bright yellow. The feet are not fitted for walking, but for climbing, and laying hold of objects. The animal mounts upon trees, and suspends himself on the branches by the extremity of his tail.

Of this genus, we know only the three species above described. M. Brisson mentions, from Seba, a fourth species, under the name of the *long-eared ant-eater*. But this species seems to be extremely suspicious; for, in Seba's enumeration of the ant-eaters, he says expressly, 'We have, in our cabinet, *six species* of ant-eaters.' He describes, however, only five; and among these five he places the *ysquiepatl*, or stinging weasel, an animal not only of a different species, but of a genus very remote from that of the ant-eaters; since it has teeth*, a flat short tongue, like that of other quadrupeds, and approaches very near to the weasel kind. Of these six species, pretended to be preserved in the cabinet of Seba, there remain only four; for the *ysquiepatl*, which is the fifth, is by no means an ant-eater, and he makes no mention of the sixth, unless the author intended to rank the scaly lizard under this genus, which appears not from his

* Vapula vit aliquando optimus autor de nominibus propriis, & ysquiepatl seu vulpeculam Mexicanam, tamandum dixit; p. 66. Quasi aliquam omnino speciem, canis septentrionalis fere amulam, maxilla inferiore crassa et rotunda, bisis insignibus dentibus armata, cum tamen de sex diversis speciebus sit professus, quod omnes dentibus careant; *Klue, de Quadrup.* p. 43.

descriptions.

descriptions. The scaly lizard feeds upon ants; he has a long muzzle, a narrow mouth, without any apparent teeth, and a long, round tongue. These characters are common to the scaly lizard and ant-eaters. But the former differs from all other quadrupeds by the singularity of having its body covered with large scales, instead of hair. Besides, it is an animal peculiar to the warm climates of the Old Continent; while the ant-eaters, whose bodies are covered with hair, are found only in the southern regions of the New World. There remains, therefore, but four species, instead of six announced by Seba; and, of these four, only one is recognisable from his descriptions, which is our third or least ant-eater, to whom Seba has given but one claw to each fore foot*, instead of two. The other three are so ill described, that it is impossible to distinguish

* Fig. 3. *Tamandua*, or another white American casti. This animal is totally different from the preceding (he means that of table 37. fig. 2. See the following note). The head is much shorter, and the ears much smaller. The eyes are a little larger, and the inferior part of the muzzle somewhat longer. Their tongues are more similar, both of them being fitted for swallowing ants. The shoulders are large, the body thick and bent, and the fore feet are armed with one large hooked claw. The hind legs and feet resemble those of an ape. Its white woolly hair is shorter than that of the preceding; and the same may be said of its crisped tail. This animal is reckoned the rarest of its species. The negroes of Surinam called it *casti*, and relate, that, when apprehended, it rolls itself up, with the feet so closely attached to each other, that it is impossible to force them asunder. It dies in a moment, when immersed in spirit of wine, or in the liquor *kildoreel*; Seba, vol. i. p. 60. plate 37. fig. 3.

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their true species. I thought it proper to transcribe these descriptions entire, not only to prove what I have advanced, but to give an idea of what credit is due to this writer. The animal he calls *tamandua murmecophaga d'Amérique*, tom. i. p. 60. tab. 37. fig. 2. has no relation to any of the three of which we are here treating. To be convinced of this fact, we have only to read the author's description *. The second, which

* *Tamandua murmecophaga d'Amérique*. This animal is very common in the West Indies; but the only one we have seen was brought from the East Indies. Several naturalists have entertained marvellous ideas concerning this creature. Some imagined it to be the *les formicarius*, others the *formica leo*, the *formica vulpes*, the *formica lepus*, &c. M. Poupert, in the *Mém. de l'Acad. Royale des Sciences*, ann. 1704, p. 235. remarks, that this animal was gray, and made snarls, like a spider, for entangling ants; but this comparison seems not to be just. Basilemattus, who has written a book upon the reptiles mentioned in the Bible, regards the *murmex leo*, another name for this animal, as a species of beetle called the *harned beetle*, and which is denominated the *flyng flag* by the Germans. (All this, *see perceptive*, is very important and very useful in the description of a quadruped.) But, continues the author, all these descriptions, and several others, express not the nature of this animal, the figure of which we have given from the original. It is covered with soft woolly hair, has a short neck, broad shoulders, a long narrow head and muzzle, from which issues a long tongue, adapted for seizing and swallowing ants. The wisdom of the Creator has furnished these animals with the necessary organs for collecting food agreeable to their taste. The fore paws have each, *beside the ordinary pair*, three *other toes*, which have grown above the others, and are armed with hooked claws, the largest of which is on the middle toe. It is with these that they scrape the earth, and pierce the ants' nests. The nostrils, which are placed very

he mentions under the name of the *tamandua-guacu* of Brasil, or the *bear which eats the ants* *, p. 65. tab. 40. fig. 1. This is a vague and equivocal

near the mouth, are straight, rough, and furnished with hair. They discover the retreats of the ants by the scent. The ears are oblong, or pendulous. The hind feet, as in the *bear*, are divided into five toes, armed with long crooked claws. The tail, which is long and bushy, terminates in a point, and they use it, like the monkeys, in fixing themselves to the branches of trees. The testes of the males are concealed within the skin. The ants, both large and small, become a prey to these animals, which, in their turn, are used by men as a medicine; *See*, vol. i. p. 60. tab. 37. fig. 2.—From such a description nothing can be learned: to apply it to the ant-eaters, as Linnaeus has done, to give, at the same time, this animal three toes on the fore feet, besides the ordinary three, and to make these grow above the others, are absurdities for glaring, as to throw discredit upon the whole narration.

* *Tamandua-guacu*, of Brasil, or the *bear that eats the ants*. This is the largest species we have ever seen. Maregrave calls it *tamandua-guacu*, and Cardon, *ultra formicarius*, or the *bear that eats the ants*. The body is long; the shoulders are broad and high; the head is very long; the muzzle gradually tapers to a point; and the nostrils are large and open: The tongue, which it thrusts out to seize the ants, *about the eighth part of a cubit*, terminates in a round button. The ears are long and *pendulous*. The eyes are pretty large, and destituted by thick hairs. The muzzle is long, wrinkled, and garnished with hair. The rest of the body is covered with long, thick hairs, similar to hogs' bristles, but become fine and woolly near the skin, and their colour is a bright chestnut. The hair on the belly is of a deeper brown. Under the tail, which is long, and terminates in a point, the colour of the hair is a bright yellow. The female, whose figure we have given, has eight pups, three on each side of the belly, and two between the fore feet. Waverless worthy of credit relate, that the females bring forth, at every litter, as many young as they have pups, in which they resemble the *foxes*, *who never bring forth many at a time*, *unless they have a great number of pups*.

vocal language. I agree, however, with Klein* and Linnæus, that it may be the true tamandua-guana, or great ant-eater; but so miserably described and represented, that Linnæus† has united,

paps. Both the fore and hind feet are larger than those described in fig. 2. of the preceding table. They are for food the largest kinds of ants.

We have in our cabinet *five species of ant-eaters*, who all differ from each other in the figure of the body, head, feet, and claws. The tamandua represented in fig. 2. (*Note, He is here speaking of the yiquipait, which differs more from the tamandua than a cat from a dog*) is a fourth part less than the former; its head, ears, and eyes, are also smaller. His fore foot has only a single claw, which is strong and hooked. The hind foot has three toes and three claws. The hair is soft, woolly, and coloured like that of a young hare. The figure of the fifth species of tamandua is the same. The colour of the hair is a pale red on the back, mixed with a silvery white, and a yellowish ash-colour on the belly. This species has four paps, two under the fore and two under the hind legs. (*This figure, being of the same figure with that which precedes it, must, therefore, be a species of yiquipait, and not of the tamandua.*) The sixth species has a long muzzle, and ears erect like those of the fox. None of these species have teeth; *Seba*, vol. i. p. 65. tab. 40. fig. 1.—It is impossible to comprehend what the author says, or what he means by the sixth species. We only perceive that he clearly contradicts himself, when he tells us, that none of these species have teeth, since the yiquipait, which is *nomiutia* included among the six, has a great number of teeth. From such examples, we may form a judgment of this author and his work. It is a subject of regret, that men who make cabinets of natural objects, are not better informed, and that, to gratify their insignificant vanity, and enhance the value of their collections, they undertake the publication of descriptions, which are always replete with such numerous exaggerations and blunders, that the correction of them would require more time than the authors bestow on the composition of their voluminous works.

* Klein de Quadrop. p. 45.

† Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 54.

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under one species, *Seba's* first and second animals, namely, that of tab. 37. fig. 2. and that of tab. 40. fig. 1. M. Brisson has considered the last as a distinct species; but I know not whether the establishing of this species be better founded, than the reproach he throws upon M. Klein for confounding it with that of the great ant-eater. The only reproach which M. Klein seems to merit is for adding, to a good description that he has given of this animal, the false remarks of *Seba*. In fine, the third of these animals, of which we find a figure in *Seba*, tom. ii. p. 48. tab. 47. fig. 2. is so ill described, that, notwithstanding my confidence in the judgment of M. Linnæus and Klein, this animal, from *Seba's* figure and description, can never be referred to the tamandua-i, or middle ant-eater. I would beg of them to peruse the description* a second time, and then form their judgment. Discussions of

* The little American tamandua, or the ant-eater delineated along with a nest of those insects. See how it embraces with its fore claws the nest of ants, upon which alone it feeds. Observe its oblong, thin, narrow head, its short ears, its pointed muzzle, that conceals its long slender tongue, with which it catches and swallows the ants, as I propose to show in the following plates (*no such plates appear in his work*). The head, legs, feet, tail, and the fore part of the body, are straw-coloured. The hind part of the body is reddish brown. Upon the breast there is a belt of silky hair, which gradually disappears about the middle of the back. The tail is short, almost naked, and curled inward; *Seba*, vol. ii. p. 48. tab. 47. fig. 2.—*Note*, The last characters in this description agree pretty well with the tamandua; but, in general, it is so incorrect, that it determines nothing.

this kind are always disagreeable; but they often cannot be avoided in details of natural history. Before describing an object, we must clear it, as far as possible, from all obscurities, and mark the numberless errors that obstruct the road to truth, at which it is often difficult to arrive.

From this critical examination, one thing appears to be certain, that three species of ant-eaters actually exist; that these three are the great, the middle, and the least ant-eater, or the *tamanoir*, the *tamandua*, and the *fourmiller*; and that the fourth species, mentioned by M. Brisson, under the name of the *long-eared ant-eater*, is very doubtful, as well as the other species described by Seba. We have seen the great and the least ant-eater; their skins are in the royal cabinet, and they are very distinct species. But we have never seen the middle kind. Our description of it shall be taken from Piso and Maregrave, the only authors who ought to be consulted concerning this animal, because all others have copied from them.

As to size of body, the *tamandua*, or middle ant-eater, may be considered as a mean proportional between the great and the least kind. Like the great ant-eater, he has a long muzzle, and four toes on the fore feet; but, like the least kind, his tail, by which he hangs on the branches of trees, is naked at the extremity. Both kinds, when suspended on a branch, balance their bodies,

bodies, stretch their muzzles towards the hollows they discover in trees, thrust in their long tongues, and quickly retract them, in order to swallow the insects they have collected.

These three animals, which are so different in size and proportions of body, have many common qualities, both in their structure and manners. They all feed upon ants, and plunge their tongues into honey, and other liquid or viscid substances. They readily pick up crumbs of bread, or small morsels of flesh. They are easily tamed. They can subsist a long time without any food. They never swallow all the liquor which they take for drink; for a part of it falls back through the nostrils. They generally sleep during the day, and move about in the night. They run so slowly, that a man may easily overtake them in an open field. Their flesh, though its taste be very disagreeable, is eaten by the savages.

At a distance, the great ant-eater has the appearance of a fox; and, for this reason, some travellers have given him the name of the *American fox*. He has strength sufficient to defend himself against a large dog, or even the *jaguar* or Brazilian cat. When attacked, he at first fights on end, and, like the bear, annoys the enemy with the claws of his fore feet, which are very terrible weapons. He then lies down on his back, and uses all the four feet; in which situation he is almost invincible, and continues the combat to the last extremity: Even when he kills

kills his enemy, he quits him not for a long time after. He is enabled to resist better than most animals; because he is covered with long bushy hair, his skin is remarkably thick, his flesh has little sensation, and his principle of life is very tenacious.

All the three ant-eaters are natives of the warm climates of America, as Brasil, Guiana, the country of the Amazones, &c. None of them are to be found in Canada, or the northern regions of the New World, and therefore should have no existence in the Old Continent. Kolbe* and Desmarchais†, however, mention these animals as natives of Africa; but they seem to have confounded the scaly lizard with the ant-eaters. Perhaps they have been misled by the following passage in Marcgrave: '*Tamandua-guacu, Brasilienfibus, Congensibus (ubi et frequens est) umbulu diffus.*' If by *Congensibus* Marcgrave meant the natives of Congo, the inference of Kolbe and Desmarchais, that the great ant-eater was found in Africa, would have been just. But Marcgrave certainly never saw this animal in Africa, since he acknowledges, that, even in America, he never saw more than stuffed skins of it. Desmarchais says simply, that the great ant-eater is found both in Africa and America, without adding a single circumstance in proof of the fact. With regard to Kolbe, no dependence can be had

* Descript. du Cap, par Kolbe, tom. iii. p. 43.

† Voyage de Desmarchais, tom. iii. p. 307.

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on his testimony; for a man who saw, at the Cape of Good Hope, elks and lynxes perfectly similar to those of Prussia, might also see the ant-eater in that climate. The ant-eaters are never mentioned by any author among the natural productions of Africa and Asia. But all the travellers, and most of the historians of America, take particular notice of these animals. De Lery, de Laët*, le P. d'Abbeville†, Massé‡, Faber, Nieremberg||, and M. de la Condamine§, agree with Piso, Barrere, &c. that the ant-eaters are natives of the warm climates of America. We must, therefore, conclude that Desmarchais and Kolbe have been deceived, and that these animals exist not in the Old Continent.

S U P P L E M E N T.

THE GREAT ANT-EATER.

DR. Maudhuut, a learned naturalist and physician, has sent us from Guiana a well preserved specimen of the great ant-eater, which, though

* Descript. des Indes Occidentales, par Jean Laët, p. 425.
556.

† Mission en l'Isle de Maragnon, par le Pere d'Abbeville,
p. 248.

‡ Hist. des Indes, par Massé, traduit par de Pure, p. 71.

§ Euseb. Nieremberg, Hist. Nat. Antverpiz, p. 190.

|| Voyage de la Rivière des Amazones, par M. de la Condamine, p. 167.

precisely

precisely the same species with that formerly described, has a shorter muzzle. The distance between the eye and the ear is likewise less, and the feet are shorter. On the fore feet there are four claws; the two middlemost being very large, and the two outermost very small. The hind feet have five black claws. The muzzle, as far as the ears, is covered with short brown hair. About the ears, the hair begins to grow longer; upon the sides of the body, it is two inches and a half in length, and as hard to the touch as that of the wild boar. The colour of the hair is a mixture of deep brown and a dirty white. This animal is three feet eleven inches long.

M. de la Borde, King's physician at Cayenne, has communicated the following observations regarding this animal:

'The ant-eater inhabits the woods of Guiana, where there are two species. The individuals of the largest kind sometimes weigh one hundred pounds. They run more slowly and sluggishly than the hog. They swim across large rivers; and, on these occasions, it is easy to knock them down with a stick. In the woods, they are shot with muskets. They are not very common; and the dogs refuse to hunt them.

'The great ant-eater tears up with his claws the nests of the wood-lice, that are every where to be found on the trees, which he climbs with ease. It is dangerous to come near this animal;

'mal; for his claws inflict the most dreadful wounds. He defends himself with success against the most ferocious animals of this Continent, as the jaguars, cougars, &c. whom he tears with his claws, the muscles and tendons of which are very strong. He kills many dogs; and therefore they refuse to hunt him.

'The great ant-eater is often seen in the large uncultivated savannahs. He is said to feed upon ants. In his stomach, which is larger than that of a man, I found a vast number of wood-lice, that had been recently swallowed. The structure and dimensions of his tongue seem to indicate, that he may likewise feed upon ants. The female brings forth but one young, in holes of trees, near the root; and, at this period, she is dangerous even to men. The flesh of this animal is eaten by the common people of Cayenne; it is black, and has neither fat nor flavour. His skin is thick and hard; and his tongue is nearly of the same conical form with his muzzle.'

'The great ant-eater,' continues M. de la Borde, 'acquires not his full growth in less than four years. His respiration is performed solely by the nostrils. At the first vertebra which joins the neck to the head, the wind-pipe is very large; but it suddenly contracts, and forms a canal, which is continued, in the horn or trunk that serves the animal for an upper jaw, to the nostrils. This horn is a foot in length,

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' length, being as long, at least, as the rest of the
' head. The wind-pipe has no opening into
' the mouth; and yet the aperture of the nostrils
' is so small, as hardly to admit a common quill.
' The eyes are very small, and the animal sees
' at a side only. His fat is extremely white.
' When he crosses rivers, he carries his long tail
' on his back.'

Messrs. Aublet and Olivier assure me, that the
great ant-eater feeds by means of his tongue
only, which is covered with a viscid humour, to
which the insects adhere. They add, that his
flesh is not bad.

THE MIDDLE ANT-EATER.

THE animal here represented, the skin of
which is well preserved in the royal cabinet, be-
longs to the species of *tamandua* or middle ant-
eater. It differs from the *tamanoir*, or great
ant-eater, not only in size, but in figure. Its
head is proportionally much thicker. The eye
is so small that it exceeds not a line in breadth.
The ears are round, and fringed above with large
black hairs. The body, from the tip of the nose
to the origin of the tail, is thirteen inches long,
and ten inches high. The hair on the top of
the back is fifteen lines long, and that on the
belly, which is of a dirty white colour, is of an

equal

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equal length. The tail, which is only seven
inches and a half long, is wholly covered with
long yellow hair, and variegated with bands or
rings slightly tinged with black.

In all this description, there are only two
characters which accord not with that given of
the tamandua by Marcgrave. 1. The tail is all
garnished with hair; but that of Marcgrave was
naked at the extremity. 2. In our tamandua,
there are five toes on the fore-feet; in that of
Marcgrave there were only four. But, as they
agree in every other article, we must conclude
the animal, whose figure is here represented, to
be a variety of the tamandua, or middle ant-
eater, if not precisely the same species.

M. de la Borde seems to point out this animal
under the name of the *little tamanoir*.

' It has,' says he, ' whitish hair, about two
' inches long, and weighs above sixty pounds.
' It has no teeth; but its claws are very long.
' Like the former, it feeds during the night, and
' the female brings forth but one at a time. Its
' manners are also the same, and it frequents the
' large forests. Its flesh is very good; but it is
' more rarely to be met with than the great
' tamanoir.'

I with M. de la Borde had given a more par-
ticular account of this animal, that all uncer-
tainty with regard to its species might have been
removed.

THE LEAST ANT-EATER.

WITH regard to this animal, M. de la Borde, at the same time, sent me the following remarks:

‘ It has bright reddish hair, and somewhat of a golden colour. It feeds upon ants, which adhere to its long worm-shaped tongue. This animal is not larger than a squirrel. It moves slowly, and is easily taken. Like the sloth, it fixes itself to a staff; and, as it has no desire to disengage itself, it may be carried in this manner wherever we please. It has no cry. We often find these animals adhering to branches by their claws. The females bring forth only one at a time in holes of trees, which they line with leaves. They feed in the night only. Their claws are very dangerous; and they clasp them so close, that it is impossible to loose them. They are not rare; but it is difficult to perceive them on the trees.’

M. Vosmaër has made a very erroneous criticism on what I have said concerning the least ant-eater*.

‘ I must remark,’ says he, ‘ though contrary to the opinion of M. de Buffon (see above, p. 349.), that last year M. Tulbagh sent me an animal, under the name of *porc de terre*, which is the *myrmecophagus* of Linnaeus; so that Desmar-

* Descript. d’un Grand Ecareuil Volant, p. 6.

‘ chais



MIDDLE ANT EATER.

A. Bell's engraving.



MIDDLE ANT EATER.

Plate CL.



GREAT ANT-EATER.

Plate CL.



LEAST ANT-EATER.

'chais and Kolbe were right in maintaining that
'this animal was found in Africa, as well as in
'America. If we form a judgment from the
'specimen sent me, which is preserved in spirit
'of wine, appears to be new born, and is as large
'as a good pig, we must conclude the full grown
'animal to be of a considerable size. The fol-
'lowing are its principal characters, as far as
'they could be remarked in an animal so young.

'The muzzle is pretty broad at the point,
'round, and somewhat compressed above. The
'ears are very broad, long, thin, pointed, and
'pendulous. On the fore feet there are four
'toes; the first and third are of equal length,
'the second somewhat longer, and the fourth or
'exterior one a little shorter than the third.
'The four claws are very long, a little hooked,
'sharp, and nearly of an equal size. On the
'hind feet there are five toes, the three inter-
'mediate ones being nearly equal in length,
'and the two exterior much shorter; the claws
'are smaller, and the two exterior ones are
'least. The tail, without being long, is thick,
'and terminates in a point. The two *myr-*
'*meophagi* of Seba, tom. i. tab. 3. fig. 2.
'and tab. 40. fig. 1. are certainly the same,
'and differ only in colour, and the figures gi-
'ven of them are good. This is a particular
'species, totally different from the *tamandua-*
'*guacu* of Marcgrave, or the *tamanoir* of M. de
'Buffon.'

From this passage, it might be thought that I was deceived with regard to the animal represented by Seba, tab. 37. fig. 2. However, I have said precisely the same thing with M. Vosmaër; for I expressed myself in the following words: 'The animal called *tamandua*, *myrmecophage d'Amerique*, by Seba, tom. i. p. 60. tab. 37. fig. 2. has no resemblance to any of the three of which we are here treating.' Now, the three American animals which I mentioned, were the great, middle, and least ant-eaters. What M. Vosmaër remarks, therefore, contradicts nothing I have advanced; which amounts to this, that these three animals are peculiar to America, and not to be found in the Old Continent. This language is so precise, that M. Vosmaër can have nothing to oppose to it. If the *myrmecophagus* of Seba, tab. 37. fig. 2. is found in Africa, it only proves that Seba was deceived when he calls it the American *myrmecophagus*, but can have no effect upon what I have advanced, and still persist in maintaining, that the three ant-eaters are found in America, and not in Africa.

The SHORT TAILED*, and the LONG TAILED MANIS†.

THESE animals are commonly known by the name of *scaly lizards*. We have rejected this denomination, 1. because it is compounded; 2. because it is ambiguous, and is applied

* The back, sides, and upper part of the tail of these animals, are covered with large strong scales. The mouth is small, and the tongue long. They have no teeth.

The short tailed scaly lizard has the back, sides, and legs, covered with blunt scales, and bristles between each. There are five toes on each foot, and the tail is not longer than the body. The ears are not unlike the human. The chin, belly, and inside of the legs are hairy; Pennant's *Synops. of Rept.* p. 329.

The Indians of the south of Asia call this animal *pangolin*, or *paenguling*. The French who live in the East Indies call it *lézard écailleux*, and *diablot de Java*. *Paenguling*, according to Seba, signifies, in the language of Java, an animal which rolls itself up like a ball.

Lacertus laticus squamosus; *Bonill Java*, p. 60.
Lezard Ecaille; *Mém. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux*, part III. p. 87.

Armadillos squamatus major Ceylanicus, seu *Diabolus Tayvanicus dictus*; *Seba*, tom. i. p. 88. tab. 53. 54. *Class. Rept.* p. 47.

Pholidotus pedibus anticis et posticis pentadactylis, squamis subrotundis; *Brisson. Rept.* p. 18.

Manis pedibus pentadactylis; *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 52.

† The long tailed scaly lizard has a slender nose, which, with the head, is smooth. The body, legs, and tail are guard-