

nothing to add to it, except that the tail of this male was all white, without any mixture of other colours. He was somewhat larger than the first, being three feet two inches long, from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, and carried his head lower than is represented in the figure. His height was two feet three inches; and his hair was white, intermixed with streaks and spots of black, both on the body and legs.

In the south part of the island of Meroë, there are hyænas much larger than those of Barbary. Their muzzle is longer, and has a greater resemblance to that of a dog. This animal is so strong, that he carries off a man to the distance of a league or two, without stopping. His hair is coarse, browner than that of the other kind, and the transverse streaks are blacker. His mane erects not from the head, but from the tail. Mr. Bruce was the first who remarked of this hyæna, as well as that of Syria and Barbary, that, when forced to fly, they are lame of the left hind-leg, which continues so remarkably for about a hundred paces, that the animal seems as if he would tumble down on his left side*.

* Note communicated to M. de Buffon by Mr. Bruce.

The CIVET* and the ZIBET†.

IT is the opinion of most naturalists, that the perfume called *musk* was furnished by one species of animal only. I have seen two of these animals, which, it must be allowed, have many essential relations, both in their external and internal structure; but they differ from each other by such a number of other characters, as entitle them

* The civet has short rounded ears, sky-blue eyes, a sharp nose, black at the point; the sides of the face, chin, breast, legs, and feet, are black; the rest of the face, and part of the sides of the neck, are white, tinged with yellow. From each ear three black stripes proceed, and end at the throat and shoulders. The back and sides are cinereous, tinged with yellow, and marked with large dusky spots disposed in rows. The hair is coarse, and that on the top of the body is longest, standing up like a mane. The tail is sometimes wholly black, and sometimes spotted near the base. The length, from nose to tail, is about two feet three inches, that of the tail is fourteen inches; and the body is pretty thick; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 254.

Animal Zibethi; *Catui apud Gesner.* p. 837.

Civette; *Mém. pour servir a l'Hist. des Animaux, prem. partie* p. 157.

Civet cat; *Rail Synops. Zood.* p. 178.

Costi civetta vulgo; *Klein, Zood.* p. 73.

Moles fasciis et maculis albis, nigris, et resuscantibus variegata; *Briffon. Zood.* p. 186.

† The zibet has short round ears, a sharp long nose, a pale cinereous face. The head and lower part of the neck are mixed with dirty white, brown, and black. The sides of the neck are marked with stripes of black, beginning near the ears, and

them to be regarded as two distinct species. To the first we have preserved the ancient name of *civet*, and to the second we have given, for the sake of distinction, that of *zibet*. The civet appears to be the same with that described by the gentlemen of the Academy in the *Mem. pour servir à l'Histoire des Animaux*, by Caius in Gesner, p. 873. and by Fabius Columna, who has given a figure of both male and female in the work of Jean Faber, which is at the end of that of Hernandez*.

The second species, which I have called the *zibet*, seems to be the same animal with that described by M. de la Peyronnie, under the name of the *musk animal*, in the *Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences*, année 1731. Both differ from the civet by the same characters; both

and ending at the breast and shoulders. From the middle of the neck, along the ridge of the back, extends a black line, reaching some way up the tail; on each side are two others. The sides are spotted with ash-colour and black. The tail is barred with black and white; and the black bars are broader on the upper side than on the lower; Pennant's *Synops. of Quad.* p. 235.

Animal de musk; *Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences*, année 1731, p. 443.

Felis Zibethi; *Gesner. Hist. Quad.* p. 836.

Animal Zibethi; *Aldrov. de Quad. Digit.* p. 340.

Viverra Zebethi, cauda annulata, dorso cinereo nigroque undatum striato; *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 65.

Note, The nomenclators have not distinguished these two animals; and we know not to which of them their phrases and definitions ought to be referred; because they give no characters which are not common to both.

* Hernandez, *Hist. Mex.* p. 580.

want

want the mane or long hair on the spine; and both have annulated tails. But the civet has neither mane nor rings. It must be allowed, however, that our zibet and the musk animal of M. de la Peyronnie, have not such a perfect resemblance, as to leave no doubt concerning the identity of their species. In the zibet, the rings on the tail are larger than those of the musk animal. The former has not a double collar, and his tail is shorter in proportion to the length of his body. But these differences are slight, and appear to be accidental varieties only, to which the civet must be more liable than other wild animals, because he is kept in a domestic state in many parts of India and the Levant. It is certain, however, that our zibet has a greater resemblance to the musk animal of M. de la Peyronnie than to the civet, and, consequently, the two former may be regarded as belonging to the same species; for we have no absolute certainty that the civet and zibet are not varieties of the same species, because we are ignorant whether they can intermix and produce fertile individuals: And, when we say, that they seem to be different species, we only mean that the presumption is exceedingly strong, since it is founded on permanent differences in their characters, which generally distinguish real species from accidental varieties.

The animal we here call the *civet*, is named

VOL. V.

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salomane

salanone * in Madagascar, *nzime* or *nzufi* † in Congo, *kankan* ‡ in Æthiopia, and *kasser* || in Guiney. We are certain, that it is the civet of Guiney; for our subject was sent alive from Guiney to St. Domingo, to one of our correspondents, who, after feeding it some time, killed it for the conveniency of carriage.

The zibet is probably the civet of Asia, of the East Indies, and of Arabia, where he is called *zebet* or *zibet*, an Arabian word, which signifies also the perfume of this animal. He differs from the civet in having a longer and thicker body, a thinner and flatter muzzle, which is somewhat concave on the upper part; while the muzzle of the civet is thicker, shorter, and a little convex. The ears of the former are also larger and more erect. His tail is longer, and better marked with annular spots, and his hair is shorter and softer. He has no mane, or long hair on the neck and spine, no black spots under the eyes, or on the cheeks, which are remarkable characters in the civet. Several travellers have suspected that there were two species of civets; but nobody has examined them so minutely as to furnish a distinct description. We have seen both, and, after a careful compa-

* Voyage de Flacourt, p. 150. 154.

† Merolla, quoted by M. l'Abbé Prevost. Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. iv. p. 385.

‡ Id. tom. iii. p. 295.

|| Id. ibid. tom. iv. p. 256. tom. v. p. 86.

rison,

rison, we think they are not only different species, but belong, perhaps, to different climates.

These animals have been called *musk-cats* or *civet-cats*, though they have nothing in common with the cat but agility of body. They rather resemble the fox, especially in the head. Their skin is marked with bands and spots, which have made them be mistaken for the panther, when seen at a distance. But they differ from the panther in every other respect. There is an animal called *the genet*, which is spotted in the same manner, whose head is nearly of the same form, and which, like the civet, has a sac where an odoriferous liquor is secreted. But the genet is smaller than our civet. Its limbs are shorter, and its body much thinner. Its perfume is weak, and of short duration: But the perfume of the civet is very strong; and that of the zibet is still more violent and piercing*. This odorous liquor is found in the fissure which these two animals have near the organs of generation. It is a thick humour, of the consistence of pomatum, and its perfume, though very strong, is agreeable, even when it issues from the body of the animal. This matter of the civet must not be

* Notwithstanding all the attention that has long been bestowed in collecting foreign animals at the Menagerie, these are the only two of this species which have appeared, or which, among the number of musk animals that we have seen there, had a strong perfume; *Mém. de la Pologne inséré dans ceux de l'Académie des Sciences, année 1731, p. 444.* The author, in this passage, is speaking of the musk animal, which we believe to be the same with our zibet.

confounded with musk, which is a sanguineous humour, derived from an animal totally different from the civet or zibet. The animal which produces the musk is a species of roebuck, or goat, without horns, which has nothing in common with the civets but its strong perfume.

Hence these two species of civets have never been properly distinguished. Both have sometimes been confounded with the stinking weasels*, the genet, and the musk deer; they have also been mistaken for the hyæna. Belon, who has given a figure and description of the civet, maintains that it was the hyæna of the ancients†. His error is the more excusable that it is not without some foundation. It is certain, that most of the fables related concerning the hyæna have been derived from the civet. The philtres, said to have been extracted from certain parts of the hyæna, and their power of exciting love, indicate sufficiently that the ancients knew the stimulating virtue of the civet's pomatum, which is still used for this purpose in the East. What they have related concerning the uncertainty of the sex in the hyæna, applies still better to the civet; for in the male nothing appears externally but three apertures, so perfectly similar to those of the female, that it is impossible other-

* Aldrovandus remarks, that the stinking weasel, called *cofen* in Virginia, is the civet; *De Zood. Dig. p. 342*. This error has been adopted by Sir Hans Sloane, who, in his History of Jamaica, says that there are civets in Virginia. *in p. 100*

† Belon. Observ. fol. 93.

wife to distinguish the sex than by dissection. The aperture in which the liquor, or rather thick odorous humour, is found, lies between the other two, and in the same direct line which extends from the os sacrum to the pubis.

The error of Gregoire de Bolivar, with regard to the climates which gave birth to the civets, has been more generally diffused than that of Belon. After telling us, that they are common in Africa and the East Indies, he asserts positively, that they are very numerous in every part of South America. This assertion, transmitted to us by Faber, has been copied by Aldrovandus, and adopted by all succeeding writers on the subject. It is certain, however, that the civets are peculiar to the warm climates of the Old Continent, and could never pass by the north into America, where, in fact, no civets ever existed till they were transported from the Philippine islands, and the coast of Africa. But, as the assertion of Bolivar is positive, and mine negative only, I must give my reasons for proving the falsity of the fact. To enable the reader to judge, beside the remarks I am about to make, I shall quote the passage of Faber entire*. 1. Faber's figure was left to him by Recchi, without any descrip-

* Hoc animal (zibethicum scilicet) nascitur in multis Indiarum Orientalis atque Occidentalis partibus, cujusmodi in orientali sunt provincie Bengala, Ceilan, Sumatra, Java major et minor, Malabar, ac plures alie — In Nova Hispania vero sunt provincie de Quatemala, Campege, Nicaragua, de Vera-Cruce, Florida, et magna illa insula Sancti Dominici, aut Hispaniola, Cuba, Mantana,

description*. Upon this figure is inscribed *animal zibeticum Americanum*. It has no similarity either to the civet or zibet, but rather resembles the badger. 2. Faber gives a description and figures of the male and female civet, which resemble our zibet; but these civets are not the same animal † with that represented in the first figure; and the second two are not figures of American animals, but of civets belonging to the Old Continent, of which Fabius Columna, fellow-member with Faber of the Lyncæan academy, had obtained drawings at Naples, and sent him the figures and descriptions. 3. After quoting Gregoire de Bolivar‡, concerning the

Jino, Guadalupe, et alie.—In regno Peruano animal hoc naga copta reperitur, in Paraguay, Tucuman, Chiriquenas, Santa-Croce, de la Sierra, Jungas, Andes, Chichapiotas, Quizos, Tinasu, novo regno, et in omnibus provinciis magno flumine Maragose confluens, quæ circa hoc ferme sine numero ad duo leucæum nulla sunt extensa. Multo adhuc plura ejusmodi animalia nascuntur in Brasilia, ubi mercatura vel cambium zibethi sive algææ ceteri citatur; *Novæ Hist. Anim. Nordi Americæ Recchi Imagines et Nomina, Joannis Fabri Lyncei Expositione*, p. 539.

* See what Faber remarks, in his preface, concerning the animals of which he is about to treat. Non itaque sis nescius, hoc in animalia, quos modo commentariis edimus, mera nostra conscriptione esse, industria ac conjectura, ad quasnam animantium species illa reduci possint, cum in autographo, præter nudum nomen et exaltati picturam, de historia ne gry quidem reperitur; p. 465.

† Faber himself is obliged to acknowledge that the figures had no resemblance. Quantum hæc icon ab illa Mexicana differat, ipsa pagina ostendit. Ego climatis et regionis diversitatem plurimum posse non nego; p. 581.

‡ Migne profecto Gregorii nostri summam in animalium perquisitione industriam et tenuissimam eorum quæ videntur quam

the climates where the civet is found, Faber concludes with admiring Bolivar's great memory, and with telling us, that he heard all this relation from the mouth of its author. These three remarks are alone sufficient to throw a suspicion on this pretended *animal zibeticum Americanum*, as well as upon the assertions of Faber borrowed from Bolivar. But, to render our detection of this error complete, we find, in a tract composed by Fernandes upon American animals, at the end of the volume which contains the Natural History of Mexico by Hernandez, Recchi, and Faber, a passage that flatly contradicts Bolivar, and where Fernandes assures us, that the civet is not an American animal*, but that, in his time, some of them had been transported from the Philippine islands to New Spain†. In fine, by

quam memoriam. Juro tibi, mi lector, hæc omnia quæ hæcenus ipsius ab ore et scriptis hæsi, et posthac dicturus sum, plura rarioraque illius ipsum ore libri memoriter descripsisse, et per compendium quodammodo (cum inter colloquia protractiora et jam plura afferat) tantum contraxisse; p. 540.

* De Aluro a quo Gallia vocata coroditur, c. xxxiv. Non me latet vulgare esse, hæc felis vocari Genus Hispanicum, quamquam adrem non indigenam, verum qui ex insulis Philippicis caput jam in hanc Novam Hispanicam adferri; *Hist. Anim. et Miner. Novæ Hist. lib. 3. a Francisc. Fernandes*, p. 11.

† The civet is found in the mountains of the Philippine islands. His skin resembles that of the tiger, and he is equally savage, though much smaller. When seized by the hunters, they tie him, and, after taking out the *civet* from a small purse under the tail, they let him at liberty, that they may have an opportunity of catching him another time; *Relat. de divers. Voyages, par Thoreau. Relat. des Isles Philippines*, p. 10. We find a number of civets in the mountains of the Philippine islands; *Hist. Gen. des Voyages*, tom. x. p. 397.

uniting this positive testimony of Fernandes to that of all the travellers who say that the civets are very common in the Philippine islands, in the East Indies, and in Africa, none of whom mention their even having seen these animals in America, it will no longer admit of a doubt, that the civet is not a native of America, but an animal peculiar to the warm climates of the Old Continent, and was never found in the New till after it had been transported thither. If I had not guarded against mistakes of this kind, which are too frequent, I would have announced our civet as an American animal, because it was transmitted from St. Domingo; but, having examined the memoir and letter of M. Pagés, which accompanied the animal, I found that it came originally from Guiney*. These particular facts I consider as so many proofs of the general position, that there is a real distinction between all the animals peculiar to the southern regions of each Continent.

* This civet was brought from Guiney. It fed upon fruits; but it likewise very willingly eat flesh. While it lived, it diffused, to a great distance, an insupportable odour of musk; and, after its death, I was not able to endure the scent in a chamber. Immediately above the scrotum, I found a fissure, which was a common passage to two pouches, one on each side of the testicles. These pouches were full of a gray, thick, viscid humour, mixed with long hairs of the same colour with those I found in the pouches. The sacs or pouches were about an inch and a half deep; and their diameter was much larger at the top than at the bottom; *Extrait du Mem. de M. Paggi, Médecin du Roi à Saint Domingue, daté du Cap. le 6 Septembre 1739.*

Hence

Hence the civet and zibet belong to the Old Continent. They differ from each other only by the external marks formerly pointed out. For the structure of their internal organs, and of the reservoirs which contain their perfume, I must refer to the excellent descriptions of Messrs. Morand and Peyronnie*. With regard to what remains of the history of these two animals, as it is difficult to refer particular facts to the one in preference to the other, I have comprehended the whole under one article.

The *civets* †, though originally natives of the warm climates of Africa and Asia, can live in temperate and even in cold countries, provided they are defended from the injuries of the weather, and are fed with succulent nourishment. Numbers of them are kept in Holland for the purpose of selling their perfume. The *civet* made at Amsterdam is preferred by our merchants to that which comes from the Levant or India, because the latter is generally less pure. That brought from Guiney would be the best ‡,

* Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences, année 1728, et 1731.

† This word, when used in the plural, denotes both the *civet* and *zibet*.

‡ There are a number of civets in Malabar. It is a small animal, nearly of the figure of a cat, only its muzzle is sharper, its claws less dangerous, and its cry different. The perfume it produces is secreted, like a kind of grease, in an aperture under the tail. It is extracted, from time to time, and never abounds, except the animal be well fed. It constitutes a great trade at Calicut; but, unless a man collects it himself, it is almost always adulterated; *Voyage de Delon, p. 11. Optimum zibethi genus ex Guinea advehitur, sinceritate enim;* Joannes Hugo.

if the Negroes, as well as the Indians and Levanters*, did not adulterate it with the juices of plants, or with labdanum, storax, and other balsamic and odoriferous drugs.

To collect this perfume, the animal is put into a narrow cage, where he cannot turn himself. The cage is opened at one end; the animal is drawn a little out by the tail, and fixed in this position, by putting a stick across the bars of the cage, which likewise enables the people to lay hold of the hind-legs. They then introduce

* The cat which produces the civet, has the head and muzzle of the fox. It is large, spotted like a tiger, and extremely ferocious. Every two days, the civet is extracted, which is a mucous substance, or thick feces, lying in a cavity under the tail, *acc.* 1. *Voyage de la Mère, p. 100.* It is the Guiney civet of which the author is here speaking.—I saw at Cairo, in the house of a Venetian, several ferocious animals, nearly of the size of a setting dog, but thicker, and of the figure of a cat. They are called *royal cats*, and are kept in cages. . . . To prevent them from biting, they are confined separately in strong wooden cages, so narrow that the animals cannot turn themselves. . . . The people open so much of the hind part of the cage as is necessary to let the animal's legs be drawn out, without allowing it to turn to wound the person who holds it; and, after collecting the civet, the animal is returned to its prison; *Voyage de Pietro della Valle, tom. i. p. 401.*—The civets, which are called *zebrides* in Arabic, are naturally savage, and inhabit the mountains of Ethiopia. Many of them are transported into Europe: They are taken when young, and fed in strong wooden cages, with milk, meat, boiled wheat, rice, and sometimes flesh, *acc.* 1. *P'Afrique de Marmel, tom. i. p. 57.*—*Voyage de Tavernier, tom. i. p. 476.*—The civets of Java produce as great a quantity of perfume as those of Guiney; but it is neither so white, nor so good; *State de la Relation d'Adieu Olearius, tom. ii. p. 350.*—Indigena ita hoc pigmentum adulterant, ut austin affirmare, nullum zibethum sine:rum ad nos deferri, *Prof. Alp. Hist. Egyp. p. 239.*

a small

a small spoon into the sac that contains the perfume, with which they scrape all its internal sides, and put the matter into a vessel, which is covered up with great care. This operation is repeated two or three times a-week. The quantity of odorous humour depends much on the quality of the nourishment, and the appetite of the animal, which always produces more in proportion to the goodness of its food. Boiled flesh, eggs, rice, small animals, birds, young poultry, and especially fishes, are the best kinds of food, and they ought to be varied in such a manner as to preserve the health and excite the appetite. He requires very little water; and, though he drinks seldom, he discharges urine frequently; and, in this operation, the male is not to be distinguished from the female.

The perfume of these animals is so strong, that it infects all parts of the body: The hair and the skin* are so thoroughly penetrated with this odour, that they retain it long after death; and,

* The reservoir that contains the odorous liquor of the civet lies below the anus, and above another orifice, which is so similar in both sexes, that, without dissection, all civets appear to be females. . . . As this liquor becomes inconvenient, when the reservoirs are too full of it, the animal is provided with proper muscles for squeezing it out. Though it be collected in great quantities in these reservoirs, where it is likewise brought to the highest perfection; yet it seems to be diffused by absorption through the whole skin; for the hair of both our civets had a strong smell; that of the male, particularly, was so impregnated with perfume, that the hand, after gently rubbing his hair, retained an agreeable odour for a considerable time; *Hist. de l'Acad. des Sciences, tom. i. p. 81.*

during

during life, it is so violent as to be quite insupportable, especially if a person is shut up in the same apartment with the animal. When heated with rage, the odour becomes more highly exalted; and, if the animal be tormented till he sweats, the keeper collects the sweat, which has likewise a strong scent, and serves for adulterating, or at least augmenting the quantity of the perfume.

The civets are naturally savage, and even somewhat ferocious; yet they are easily tamed, so as to be approached and handled without danger. They have strong sharp teeth; but their claws are weak and blunt. Though their bodies are thick, they are active and nimble. They leap like cats, but can likewise run like dogs. They live by hunting and surprizing small animals and birds. Like the fox, they enter the court-yards, and carry off poultry. Their eyes sparkle in the dark, and they probably see well during the night. When animal food fails them, they eat roots and fruits. They drink little, never frequent moist places, and spontaneously live among burning sands and arid mountains. In their own climate, they are very prolific; but, though they can live and produce their perfume in temperate regions, they are incapable of multiplying. Their voice is stronger, and their tongue smoother, than those of the cat; and their cry has a resemblance to that of an enraged dog.

In Europe, the unctuous perfume extracted from these animals is called *civet*, and *zibet* or *algalia*

Plate CXXIX.



ZIBET.

Plate CXXX.



CIVET.

algalia in Arabia. It is more used in India and the Levant, than in the more northern countries. It is hardly now employed as a medicine; but the perfumers and confessioners make use of it in the composition of their perfumes. The odour of the civet, though strong, is more agreeable than that of musk. But both of them lost their reputation upon the discovery of ambergris, or rather the mode of preparing it: And even the ambergris, which not long ago was esteemed for the excellence of its smell, has ceased to be admired by people of a refined and delicate taste.

S U P P L E M E N T.

IN the year 1772, M. de Ladebat sent a live civet to M. Bertin, secretary of state. This animal was given by the Dutch governour of Fort Mine, on the coast of Africa, to the captain of one of M. de Ladebat's ships, in the year 1770, and was landed at Bourdeaux in the month of November 1772. On its arrival, it was very weak; but, after some days, resumed its strength, and, at the end of five or six months, its size was augmented about four inches. It was fed with raw and boiled flesh, fish, soup, and milk. It was kept warm during the winter; for it seemed to suffer much from cold, and became less ferocious when exposed to a cool air.