

The MARGAY, or CAYENNE CAT*.

THE margay is much smaller than the ocelot. In size and figure, he resembles the wild cat, only his head is more square, his muzzle and tail longer, and his ears more rounded. His hair is also shorter than that of the wild cat, and he is marked with black bands and spots upon a yellow ground colour. He was sent

* Cayenne cat, with the upper part of the head, neck, back, sides, shoulders, and thighs, of a bright tawny colour. The face is striped downwards, with black. The shoulders and body are marked with stripes, and oblong, large, black spots, and the legs with small spots. The breast, and inside of the legs and thighs, are whitish, and spotted with black. The tail is very long, and marked with black, tawny, and gray. It is of the size of a common cat; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 182.

Margay, a word derived from *Maragao*, or *Maraguia*, the Brazilian name of this animal.

At Maragao there is a species of wild cats, which the Indians call *Marguia*, with beautifully spotted skins; *Myst. du P. d'Abbeville*, p. 250.

Tepe Maxlaton; *Fernand. Hist. Nov. Hispan.* p. 9.

Maragao five Maracain; *Margay. Hist. Nat. Brasil.* p. 233.

Felis fera tigrina Malakaina; *Barriere, Hist. de la France Equin.* p. 153.

Le Pichou, cat-a-mountain; *du Praz, Louisiana.* vol. ii. p. 64.

Felis sylvestris tigrina ex *Hispamiola*; *Schoe.* vol. i. p. 77.

tab. 48. fig. 2.

Felis sylvestris tigrina, ex griseo flavescens, maculis nigris variegata; *Briffet. Quad.* p. 193.

to us from Cayenne, under the name of the *tiger-cat*. He, indeed, is of the same nature with the cat, jaguar, and ocelot, animals who have received the appellation of *tigers* in the New Continent. According to Fernandez, this animal, when full grown, is not so large as the civet; and, according to Marcgrave, whose comparison seems to be more just, he is of the size of a wild cat, which he resembles likewise in natural dispositions, living on small animals, poultry, &c. But it is extremely difficult to tame him, and he never loses his natural ferocity. His colours vary, though they are generally such as we have represented them. This animal is very common in Guiana, Brasil, and all the other regions of South America; and he seems to be the same with the *pichou** of Louisiana. But the species is not so frequent in temperate as in warm climates.

If we take a survey of these cruel animals, whose skins are so beautiful, and whose nature is so perfidious, we shall find, in the Old Continent, the tiger, panther, leopard, ounce, and serval; and, in the New Continent, the jaguar, ocelot, and margay, which three appear to be miniatures of the former, and possessing neither

* The *pichou* is a kind of cat as tall as a tiger, but not so thick. His skin is equally beautiful. He makes great devastation among poultry; but happily he is not very common in Louisiana; *Hist. de la Louisiane, par le P. de La Font, tom. II. p. 92. fig. p. 67.*

the same stature nor strength; they are also timid and daftardly, in proportion as the others are bold and intrepid.

There is still another animal of this genus, which the furriers call *guepard*. We have seen several skins of it, which resembled those of the lynx in the length of the hair. But, as the cats are not terminated by pencils, the guepard is not a lynx. Neither is he a panther nor a leopard; for his hair is not short, and he has a mane of four or five inches long on his neck and between his shoulders. The hair on his belly is likewise three or four inches in length, and his tail is proportionally shorter than that of the panther, leopard, or ounce. He is nearly of the size of this last animal, being only about three feet and a half long. His fur, which is of a very pale yellow colour, is speckled, like that of the leopard, with black spots; but they are smaller and nearer each other, being only three or four lines in diameter.

I imagined that this animal was the same with that mentioned by Kolbe under the name of the *tiger-wolf*, whose description is below*.

He is of the size of a common dog, and sometimes larger. His head is as big as that of a bull-dog. His chops, as well as his muzzle and eyes, are large, and his teeth are very sharp. His hair is curled, like that of a water-dog, and spouted like that of a tiger. His paws are large, and armed with great claws, which he retracts at pleasure, like the cat. His tail is short. The lion, tiger, and leopard are his mortal enemies. They pursue him

He is common in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope. During the day he remains in the clefts of rocks, or in holes which he digs in the earth; and, in the night, he goes in quest of prey. But, when he hunts, he makes a howling noise, which alarms both men and animals; so that it is easy either to avoid or to kill him. In fine, the word *goupard* seems to be derived from *léopard*, the mode in which the Germans and Dutch spell *leopard*. We have also remarked, in this species, varieties both in the ground colour and in that of the spots. But all the guepards have the common characters of long hair on the belly, and a mane on the neck.

S U P P L E M E N T.

TO the article *Margay* we must refer the tiger-cat of Cayenne, mentioned by M. de la Borde in the following terms:

‘The skin of the tiger-cat, like that of the ounce, is very much spotted. Though he has the dispositions of the fox, he is somewhat smaller. He is commonly found in the woods

even to his den, dart upon him, and tear him in pieces; *Descript. du Cap de Bonne-Espérance, par Kelsb, tom. ii. p. 69. Note.* The animal which this author calls the *tiger*, is the leopard, and what he calls the *leopard*, is the panther.

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‘ of Cayenne. He is a great destroyer of game, such as the agoutis, akouchis, partridges, pheasants, and other birds, whose young he seizes in their nests. He is very alert in climbing trees, where he conceals himself. He runs by a kind of leaping; but his motion is not quick. In his aspect, gait, and manner of lying in wait, he has a perfect resemblance to the cat. At Cayenne, I have seen several of them chained in the houses. They allowed themselves to be stroked a little on the back. But they always retained a degree of ferocity in their aspect. They were fed with fish and meat, boiled or raw: Every other food was disagreeable to them. They produce in all seasons, whether summer or winter, and bring forth two at a time in the hollows of corrupted trees.’

There is another tiger-cat, or rather a species of wild cat, in Carolina, of which the late Mr. Colinson sent me the following notice:

‘The male was of the size of a common cat, being nineteen inches long from the nose to the tail, which last was four inches in length, and had eight white rings, like the maucauco. His colour was a bright brown, mixed with gray hairs. He was remarkable for pretty large black bars along the body and sides, from the head to the tail. The belly is whitish, with black spots. The limbs are slender, and spotted with black. His ears have a large aperture, and

