

The preceding notices, though composed of twenty-one articles, contain not above nine or ten distinct species; for all the others are only varieties. The white bear is only a variety of the common kind; the Tartarian cow, of the bison; the Guiney and Cape-Verd hogs, of the common hog, &c. Hence, by adding these ten species to about one hundred and eighty, whose history we have given, the total number of quadrupeds, the existence of which is properly ascertained, exceeds not two hundred species upon the surface of the whole known world.

ADDITIONS from the Supplementary
Volume.

THE CRAB-EATER*.

THE name *crab-eater*, or *crab-dog*, has been given to this animal, because crabs are his principal food. He has very little relation to the dog or fox, to which some travellers have compared him. He seems to be more nearly allied to the opossums; but he is much larger, and the female crab-eater carries not her young, like the female opossum, in a pouch under her belly. Hence the crab-eater appears to be a detached species, and different from all those we have formerly described.

In the figure, the long naked, scaly tail, the large thumbs without claws on the hind feet,

* Cayenne opossum, with a long slender face; ears erect, pointed, and short; the coat woolly, mixed with very coarse hairs, three inches long, of a dirty white from the roots to the middle; from thence to the ends of a deep brown; sides and belly of a pale yellow; legs of a dusky brown; thumb on each foot distinct, on the toes of the fore feet, and thumb on the hind, are nails; on the toes of the hind feet crooked claws; tail very long, taper, naked, and scaly. Length seventeen inches; that of the tail fifteen and a half. The subject measured was very young; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad. Edit. 2. p. 309.*

Canis ferus major, canerolus vulgo dictus. Koupara; Barrère, France, Equin. p. 149.

and the flat claws on the fore feet, are remarkable. This animal, whose skin is preserved in the royal cabinet, was young when it was transmitted to us. It is a male; and the following is a description of it:

The length of the whole body, from the nose to the origin of the tail, is about seventeen inches. Before, it is six inches three lines high, and six inches and a half behind. The tail, which is grayish, scaly, and naked, is fifteen inches and a half long, ten lines in circumference at the origin, and gradually tapers to a point.

As the legs of this animal are very short, he has, at a distance, some resemblance to a terrier. The head is not very different from that of a dog, and exceeds not four inches one line in length, from the point of the nose to the occiput. The eye is not large; the edges of the eye-brows are black; and, above the eye, there are hairs of an inch and a quarter in length. There are similar hairs on the side of the cheek near the ear. The whiskers are black, and about an inch and a half long. The opening of the mouth is near two inches. The upper jaw is armed, on each side, with a crooked canine tooth, which reaches beyond the under jaw. The ear is brown, naked, broad, and round at the extremity.

The hair on the body is woolly, and interspersed with other long stiff black hairs. These
long

long hairs increase upon the thighs and the spine of the back, which is totally covered with them, and form a kind of mane from the middle of the back to the origin of the tail: They are three inches long, of a dirty white colour from the base to the middle, and afterwards of a dark brown as far as the point. The hair on the sides, as well as on the belly, is yellowish white; but it approaches more to yellow toward the shoulders, and on the thighs, neck, breast, and head, where this yellow tincture is mixed in some places with brown. The sides of the neck are yellow; and the legs and feet are of a blackish brown colour. There are five toes on each foot. The fore foot is an inch and three quarters long, the largest toe nine lines, and the furrowed claw two lines. The toes are a little bended, like those of the rat, the thumb alone being straight. The hind feet are an inch and eight lines long, the largest toe nine lines, and the thumb half an inch. The thumb is thick, broad, and at a distance from the toes, as in the apes. The nail of the thumb is flat; but those of the other toes are crooked, and reach beyond their points. The thumb of the fore foot is straight, and not removed from the other toe.

M. de la Borde informs me, that this animal is very common in Cayenne, and that it always frequents the savannahs, and other marshy places.

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'It climbs trees,' he remarks, 'with great dexterity, and continues oftener upon them than on the ground, especially during the day. It has fine teeth, and defends itself against the dogs. Crabs are its principal nourishment, and it is always fat. When unable to draw the crabs from their holes with its foot, it introduces the tail, which it uses as a hook. The crab sometimes lays hold of the tail, and makes the animal cry. This cry has some resemblance to that of a man, and is heard at a great distance. But its ordinary voice is a kind of grunting like a pig. The female produces four or five young at a litter, and deposits them in the hollows of old trees. The natives of the country eat its flesh, which resembles that of a hare. These animals are easily tamed, and they are fed in the houses like dogs and cats, with all kinds of victuals. Hence their taste for crabs is by no means exclusive.'

It is alledged, that there are two species of crab-eaters in Cayenne. The first is the animal we have already described: The other is not only a different species, but belongs to a different genus. Its tail is totally covered with hair, and it seizes crabs with its paws only. These two animals resemble each other in the head alone; and they differ in the figure and proportions of the body, as well as in the structure of the feet and claws.

Plate CXXIX.



A. Bull. Sculp.

CRAB EATER.