

The MICO*, or Fair Monkey.

WE owe our knowledge of this animal to M. de la Condamine; and, therefore, we shall transcribe the account he has given of it: 'The monkey, of which the Governor of Para made me a present, is the only one of the kind that had been seen in this country. The hair on its body was of a beautiful silvery white colour; and that on its tail was a shining chestnut approaching to black. Its ears, cheeks, and muzzle, were of so lively a vermilion, that it had the appearance of being the work of art. I kept it twelve months; and, when almost in sight of the French coast, it was still alive. But, notwithstanding all my precautions to defend it against the cold, it fell a victim to the rigour of the season before my arrival. . . . I have preserved it in aquavivæ, which will be sufficient to show that

* The fair monkey, with a small round head; face and ears of the most lively vermilion colour; body covered with most beautiful long hairs of a bright and silvery whiteness, of matchless elegance; tail of a shining dark chestnut; head and body eight inches long; tail twelve; Pennant's *Synops. of Zool.* p. 134.

Cercopithecus ex cinereo albus argenteus, facie auriculisque rubris splendidibus, cauda castanei coloris; Brisson. Zool. p. 142.

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' my description is not exaggerated *.' From this narration it is obvious, that M. de la Condamine's description will apply to no other animal than the *mico*; and that it is a distinct, and probably a very rare species. Though remarkable for the beauty of its hair, and the lively red which adorns its face, it was never mentioned by any former author or traveller.

Distinctive Characters of this Species.

The mico has neither cheek-pouches nor callosities on the buttocks. The tail is about one half longer than the head and body, and is not prehensile. The partition of the nostrils is thinner than that of the other fagoins; but their apertures are placed at a side. Its face and ears are naked, and of a vermilion colour. The muzzle is short; the eyes are distant from each other; the ears are large; the hair is of a beautiful silver white colour, and that of the tail of a glossy brown, approaching to black. It walks on four feet, and exceeds not seven or eight inches in length. The females are not subject to the menses.

* Voyage sur la Rivière des Amazones, par M. de la Condamine, p. 165.