

The GRISON, or GRAY WEASEL*.

THIS animal is analogous to the weasel and ermine. M. Allamand gave the first description and figure of it under the name of the *grison*, in the 15th volume of the Dutch edition of my work, which he describes in the following manner:

‘ I received,’ says he, ‘ from Surinam, the
‘ small animal represented in the plate †. In the
‘ catalogue it was called the *gray weasel*, from
‘ which circumstance I derived the name *grison*,
‘ because I know not how it is denominated in
‘ the country where it is found. The whole up-
‘ per part of its body is covered with deep brown
‘ hair, having white points, which gives a gray-
‘ ish brown colour: Under the head and neck is
‘ a bright gray, because the hairs there are very
‘ short, and the white part is of equal length
‘ with the brown. The muzzle, and the under
‘ part of the body and legs, are black; which sin-
‘ gularly contrasts with the gray colour on the
‘ head and neck.

‘ The head of this animal is very large in pro-
‘ portion to its body; its ears form almost a semi-
‘ circle; its eyes are large; and its mouth is

* A new animal from Buffon's Supplement.

† Edition de Hollande, tom. xv.

‘ armed



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armed with strong grinders, and sharp tusks.
It has six cutting teeth in each jaw, four of
them hardly rising above the gums. Both
the fore and hind feet have five toes, with yel-
lowish claws. The tail is pretty long, and ter-
minates in a point.

The grison has a greater resemblance to the
weasel than to any other animal. But it be-
longs not to the weasel tribe; for its body is
too short, and its legs are too long. It is not
mentioned by any author or traveller. I
shewed it to several persons who had lived
long in Surinam; but none of them knew it;
hence it either must be a rare animal, even in
its native country, or it must live only in de-
sert and unfrequented places. The length of
its body is about seven inches. I have not
been able to learn any thing of its history.