

'are covered with short hair, of a deep yellow colour. On the paws there are four toes, and a small one behind. The claws are small and black. The tail, which is more than double the length of that of our ferrets, is very thick at its origin, terminates in a point, and is covered with hair similar to that on the body. This animal, according to the information of the boy who has the charge of it, never drinks.'

The MAKIS*, or MAUCAUCO'S.

AS the name *maki* has been given to several animals, we could only employ it as a generic term, under which we shall comprehend three animals of the same genus, but of distinct species. These three animals have long tails, and feet like those of the monkey; but their muzzle is long, like that of the martin, and they have six cutting teeth in the under jaw, while

* Ring-tailed maucauco with the end of the nose black, erect ears, white face, and black circles round the orbits. The hair on the top and hind part of the head is of a deep ash-colour; the back and sides are of a reddish ash-colour; the outskides of the limbs are paler; and the belly and insides of the limbs are white. All its hair is very soft, close, fine, and erect, like velvet. The tail is twice the length of the body, and marked with numbers of regular rings of black and white; and, when sitting, it is twisted round the body, and brought over its head. The nails are flat, particularly those of the thumbs of the hind feet. The inside of the hands and feet are black. It is of the size of a cat; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 137.

The word *maki* seems to be derived from *marock* or *maucac*, which is the name of these animals in Mofambique, and in the islands adjacent to Madagascar.

Vari; *Flacourt. Hist. Madag.* p. 153.

Mocawk; *Gryll's Voy.* p. 41.

Maucauco; *Edwards, Hist. Birds.* p. 197.

Prosimia cinerea, cauda cintha annulis alternatim albis et nigris; Brisson. Quad. p. 157.

Lemur catta, caudatus, cauda albo nigroque annulata; Lin. *Syst. Nat.* p. 45. *Ossick's Voy.* vol. ii. p. 168.

the monkeys have only four. The first of these animals is the mococo or maucauco, commonly known by the name of the ring-tailed maki. The second is the mongous, commonly called the *Brown Maki**. But this denomination is improper; for some individuals are all brown, and others have their cheeks black, and their feet yellow. The third is the *Vari*†, by some called

* The woolly maucauco, with orange-coloured irides, short rounded ears, end of the nose black, eyes lodged in a circle of black, and the space between them of the same colour. The rest of the nose and lower sides of the cheeks are white. When in full health, the whole upper part of the body is covered with long, soft, and thick fur, a little curled or waved, and of a deep brownish ash colour. The tail is very long, and covered with the same sort of hair, and of the same colour. The breast and belly are white, and the hands and feet naked and dusky. The nails are flat, except that of the inner toe of the hind feet. It is of the size of a cat. The paws are sometimes white or yellow, and the face wholly brown; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood. p. 136.*

Mungos, the name of this animal in the East Indies.

Macasser fox; *Nitshoff's Voy. p. 361.*

Simia fuscus, lanuginosus, fuscus; Pictor Gazophyl. tab. 17.

fig. 5.

The mongooz; *Edw. Gleanings, p. 12.*

Prosimia fusca, naso pedibusque albis; Brisson. Zood. p. 136.

Lemur mongooz, caudatus, griseus, cauda eret colore; Linn.

Syst. Nat. p. 44.

† The rusted maucauco, with orange-coloured irides, long hair round the sides of the head, standing out like a ruff, and a long tail. The colour of the whole animal is black, but not always, being sometimes white, spotted with black; but the feet are black. It is rather larger than the ring-tailed species; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood. p. 138.*

Vari, or varicosi; Flacourt. Hist. Madag. p. 153. Cauch's

Voy. p. 53.

Black

called the *Pied Maki*. But this denomination is ill applied; for, besides the pied variety, some individuals are entirely black, and others entirely white. These animals are all natives of the Eastern regions of Africa, and particularly of Madagascar, where they are very numerous.

The maucauco is a beautiful animal. His aspect is agreeable, his figure elegant, and his hair always neat and glossy. He is remarkable for the largeness of his eyes, the height of his hind legs, which are much longer than those before, and his large and handsome tail, which is always erect, always in motion, and garnished with thirty alternate rings of black and white, well marked and separated from each other. His manners are gentle, and, though he has a great resemblance to the monkeys, he possesses none of their malicious dispositions. In a state of liberty, the maucauco's live in society, and they are found in Madagascar in troops of thirty or forty*. In a domestic state, the prodigious rapidity of their movements renders them incommensurable: It is for this reason alone that they are generally chained; for, though extremely active and vivacious, they are neither mischievous

Black maucauco; *Edw. Gleanings, p. 13.*

Lemur maceo, caudatus, niger, collari barbato; Linn. Syst.

Nat. p. 44.

* The vari's, whose tails are barred with black and white, go in troops of thirty, forty, or fifty: They resemble the varicosi's; *Voyage de Flacourt, p. 154.*

nor ferocious. They came to such a degree as to go out and return, without any danger of running off. Their gait is oblique, like that of all animals which have hands instead of feet. The maucauco leaps more gracefully than he walks. He is a silent animal, uttering only a short acute cry when surprised or irritated. He sleeps in a sitting posture, with his muzzle resting on his breast. His body is not thicker than that of a cat, but it is longer; and the height of his legs gives him the appearance of being larger than he really is. His hair, though very soft to the touch, stands always erect. In the male maucauco, the organs of generation are small and concealed; but those of the mongous, or woolly maucauco, are disproportionally large, and very apparent.

The mongous is smaller than the maucauco; his hair is likewise silky, pretty short, and somewhat curled. His nose is larger than that of the maucauco, and resembles that of the vari. I had a mongous in my possession for several years, which was altogether brown. It had yellow eyes, a black nose, and short ears. It amused itself with eating its own tail, and actually destroyed the last four or five vertebrae. This animal was extremely dirty, and so troublesome that we were obliged to chain him. Whenever he could make his escape, he went into the neighbouring shops in quest of fruits, sugar, and

sweetmeats,

sweetmeats, and opened the boxes which contained them. It was difficult to seize him, and he bit cruelly even those with whom he was best acquainted. He uttered a low grunting noise, almost perpetually; and, when tired of being alone, he croaked like a frog, and so loud as to be heard at a great distance. This mongous was a male, and his testicles were extremely large in proportion to the size of his body. He was fond of the she-cats, and even satisfied his desires, without any intimate union: His embraces were, of course, ineffectual. He dreaded cold and moisture; he never departed from the fire, and stood on end to warm himself. He was fed with bread and fruits. His tongue was rough, like that of a cat; and, when permitted, he licked a person's hand till it was inflamed, and often finished this operation with a severe bite. The cold of the winter 1750 killed him, though he never quitted his station near the fire. His movements were extremely brisk, and sometimes petulant. He often slept during the day; but his slumbers were so light, that the smallest noise awaked him.

In this species there are several varieties, both in colour and size: The mongous, whose history has just now been given, was totally brown, and about the size of an ordinary cat. I saw one, which, though an adult, was not larger than the fat squirrel. If this small mongous had not perfectly resembled the large kind, except in

size, it would unquestionably have been a distinct species. But, as we have no evidence that these two animals do not intermix, we must still regard them as the same species, till we acquire some new light as to their history and economy.

The vari* is larger, stronger, and more ferocious than the maucauco. In a state of liberty, he is even dangerous. We are told by travellers, 'That these animals are as furious as tigers; that they make such a noise in the woods, that, when only two of them are together, one would believe there were a hundred; and that it is difficult to tame them†.' The voice of the vari has some resemblance to the roaring of a lion, and is tremendous to those who hear it for the first time. This astonishing strength of voice, in a middle-sized animal, depends on the singular structure of its wind-pipe, the two branches of which widen, and form a large cavity, before they enter the lungs. Hence he differs from the maucauco both in structure and dispositions. His hair, in general, is longer;

* Flacourt, who calls the maucauco *vari*, gives the same of variety to this animal; which epithet, probably, denotes the greater size and ferocity of the animal, which likewise differs from the maucauco in several other articles.

† Voyage de Flacourt, p. 153.—When this animal is taken young, he apparently loses his ferocity, and seems to be as gentle as the maucauco. * It is an animal of a social, mild, and peaceable nature, and has neither the cunning nor the malice of the monkey; † *Edw. Glanville*, p. 13.

and he has a kind of a ruff or cravat of still longer hair, which furrounds his neck, and forms a very distinct character by which he is easily known. In colour, he varies from white to black, or pied; and his hair, though long and very soft, stands almost perpendicular to the skin. His muzzle is larger and proportionally longer than that of the maucauco. His ears are much shorter, and fringed with long hairs. His eyes are of so deep an orange colour, that they appear to be red.

The maucauco, the mongous, and the vari, belong to the same country, and seem to be confined to Madagascar*, Mofambique, and the lands adjacent to these islands. They appear to be in the Old Continent what the opossums are in the New, which last, like the former, have four hands. With regard to figure, the makis seem to constitute the shade between the long-

* In the province of Melagassie in Madagascar, the different species of monkeys are extremely numerous. Some of them are brown, with woolly hair, and a long bushy tail, which they raise above their backs, and form a shade with it to protect themselves from the sun and rain. In this manner they sleep, like the squirrels, upon the branches of trees. Besides, they have round ears, and a muzzle like the martin. This species is not so troublesome and malicious as the other kinds. The antavarres have the same kind of hair with the former, and a white ruff round the neck. Some of them are entirely white, with a long muzzle. They are as large as the former, and grunt like hogs; *Relat. de Madagascar, par F. Cauché*, p. 127. *Nota*, This passage plainly points out the mongous and vari; and it is upon this authority that I have said, that some vari's are black, others pied, and others entirely white.

tailed monkeys and the digitated quadrupeds. Like the monkeys, they have four hands and a long tail; and, at the same time, their muzzle is long like that of the fox or pole-cat. In manners, however, they have a greater resemblance to the monkeys; for, though they sometimes eat flesh, and likewise lie in wait for birds, they are more frugiverous than carnivorous, and prefer, even in a domestic state, fruits, roots, and bread, to flesh, either raw or roasted.

Plate CCXXX.



MAUCUCO.



MONGOUR.



MONGOUR.



Vahl.



Vahl.