

THE TALAPOIN*.

THOUGH the size of this monkey be small, its figure is beautiful. Its name seems to indicate that it comes from Siam, and the other eastern provinces of Asia. It is certain, however, that it is a native of the Old Continent, and exists not in the New; because it has cheek-pouches and callosities on the buttocks, neither of which characters belong to the fagoins or sapajous, the only American animals who can be compared to the monkeys. But, independent of the name, I am inclined to think that this monkey is more common in the East Indies than in Africa; because it is affirmed by voyagers, that most of the apes in this part of Asia are of a brownish green colour. 'The apes of Guzarat are of a brownish green colour, and have long white beards and eyebrows. These animals, which the Banians,

* The Talapoin monkey, with a sharp nose, round head, large black naked ears; eyes and end of the nose, flesh-coloured; hair on the cheeks very long, and reflected towards the ears: On the chin a small beard; the colour of the whole upper part of the body, and the outside of the limbs, a mixture of dusky yellow and green; the lower part white tinged with yellow; the tail very long and slender, above, of an olive colour; beneath, cinereous; the paws black. Its length is about one foot, and that of the tail, one foot five inches; Pennant's *Synops. of Quad.* p. 115.

‘ from a religious principle, allow to multiply
 ‘ without end, are so familiar, that numbers of
 ‘ them perpetually enter the houses; and the
 ‘ sellers of fruits and confections have much
 ‘ difficulty in preserving their wares *.’

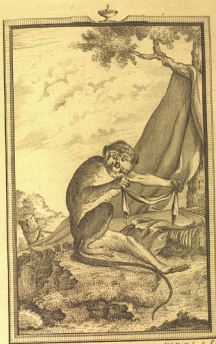
Mr. Edwards has given a figure and description of a monkey, under the denomination of *the middle-sized black ape*, which seems to make a nearer approach to the talapoin than any other. I here add Edwards’s description †, and refer to the figure he has given, that the reader may compare the two animals. If the size and colour be excepted, they have such a resemblance to each other, that they may be regarded as species very nearly allied, if not varieties of the same. In this case, as we are not certain that our talapoin is a native of the East Indies, and

* Hist. Gen. des Voyages, tom. x. p. 67.

† This monkey was about the size of a large cat, of a gentle nature in respect to any one. He loved playing with a kitten, as most monkeys do. He was a little vicious, according to their nature, being a male.

His head was pretty round; the skin of the face of a tawny flesh-colour, thinly covered with black hair: The ears were shaped like the human. The eyes were of a reddish hazel colour, with black pupils. The hair was long above the eyes, and the eyebrows joined together; it was also long on the temples, which partly covered the ears. The head, back, arms, legs, and tail, were covered with pretty long, loose, dusky, black hair, not very harsh, or ever soft. His breast, belly, &c. were almost bare of hair, of a dusky flesh-colour, with two nipples on the breast. The four paws were all of them formed something like a human hand; they were covered with black soft skin, having little or no hair on them; the nails are flat; Edwards’s *Gleanings*, p. 221.

Plate CCLXXXI.



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TALAPOIN

as Edwards assures us, that his monkey came from Guiney, we must refer the talapoin to the same climate, or rather suppose that it is common to the southern regions of both Africa and Asia. It is probably the same species of black apes mentioned by Bosman, under the name of *bourdmannefjet*, whose skin, he remarks, is an excellent fur *.

* In Guiney, there is a third species of ape, which is very beautiful, and generally exceeds not two feet in length. Its hair is extremely black, and more than an inch long, and its beard is white; from which circumstance the Dutch call it *bourdmannefje*. Bonnets are made of their skins, and each fur sells at four crowns; *Voyage de Bosman*, p. 258.