

The PALM SQUIRREL\*, the  
BARBARY SQUIRREL†, and  
the GROUND SQUIRREL‡.

THE palm squirrel is of the size of a rat, or of a small squirrel. He lives upon the palm-trees, and from that circumstance he has had his name. By some he is called the *palm rat*,

\* The palm squirrel has plain ears, an obscure pale yellow stripe on the middle of the back, another on each side, a third on each side of the belly, the two last being very distinct. The rest of the hair on the sides, back, and head, is black and red, very closely mixed; that on the thighs and legs is more red. The belly is of a pale yellow. The hair on the tail does not lie flat, but encircles it; it is coarse, and of a dirty yellow, barred with black; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 287.

Le palmiste, rat palmiste, écureuil des palmiers.

Mutella Africana; *Chapt. Exot.* p. 112.; *Rail Synops. Zood.* p. 216.

Mastela Libyca; *Nieremberg, Hist. Nat.* p. 172.

Sciurus palmarum subgriseus, striis tribus flavicantibus, eadæque albo nigroque lineata; *Lyons. Syst. Nat.* p. 86.

Sciurus palmarum, coloris ex rufo et nigro mixti, testis in dorso flavicantibus; *Briffon. Zood.* p. 109.

† The Barbary squirrel has full black eyes, and white orbits. The head, body, feet, and tail, are cinereous, inclining to red. The colour is lightest on the legs. The sides are marked lengthwise with two white stripes. The belly is white. The tail is bushy, marked regularly with shades of black, one beneath another. It is of the size of the common squirrel; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 287.

Sciurus getulus; *Cat. Opusc.* p. 77. *Gesner. Zood.* p. 347. *Albre. Zood. Digit.* p. 105.

Sciurus

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rat, and by others the *palm squirrel*. But, as he is neither a rat nor a squirrel, we have given him the simple denomination of *le palmiste*. The form of his head is nearly the same with that of the short-tailed field-mouse, and covered with frizled hair. His long tail trails not, like that of the rat, but is elevated vertically, without, however, lying on his back, like that of the squirrel. The tail is covered with hair longer

Sciurus getulus, fuscus, striis quatuor albidis longitudinalibus; *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 87.

The Barbary squirrel; *Edwards.* p. 193.

Sciurus coloris ex rufo et nigro mixti, testis in lateribus alternatim albis, et fuscis aut nigris; *Briffon. Regu. Anim.* p. 109.

Le barbaresque; *Buffon.*

‡ The ground squirrel has plain ears. The ridge of the back is marked with a pale yellow stripe, bounded above and below with a line of black. The head, body, and tail, are of a reddish brown colour; the tail is darkened. The breast and belly are white, and the nose and feet pale red. The eyes are full; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 288.

Mouse squirrel; *Jaflyne's Voy.* p. 86.

Ground squirrel, Ecureuil de Terre; *Larocque's Carolinas*, p. 124. *Catfish's Carolinas*, vol. ii. p. 75. *Edwards.* p. 181. *Kalm*, vol. i. p. 322. *tab. 1.*

Sciurus lateri; *Rail Synops. Zood.* p. 216.

Sciurus minor virgatus; *Nes. Cons. Petrop.* vol. v. p. 344.

Barn-dackie; *Le Br. Voy. Myérov.* vol. ii. p. 432.

Sciurus striatus, flavus, striis quinque fuscis longitudinalibus; *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 87. *Klein. Zood.* p. 53.

Sciurus rufus, testis ex albo flavicantibus intermixtis. —

Sciurus Carolinensis; *Briffon. Regu. Anim.* p. 155.

Le Suisse; *Buffon.*

L'écureuil Suisse; *Voy. de la Hontan*, tom. ii. p. 43. *Descript. de l'Amérique Septentr. par Dege.* tom. ii. p. 331.

than that of the body, but shorter than the hair on the tail of a squirrel. Along the spine of the back, from the neck to the tail, there is a whitish stripe, accompanied on each side with a brown stripe, which is followed by another white stripe. This striking character, by which this animal would appear to be distinguished from all others, is found to be nearly the same in the Barbary and ground squirrels. These three animals have such a resemblance to each other, that Mr. Ray \* imagined they constituted but one species. If it be considered, however, that the palm and Barbary squirrels are only found in the warm climates of the Old Continent, and that the ground squirrel, described by Lister, Catesby †, and Edwards ‡, is peculiar to the cold and temperate regions of the New World, we must conclude them to be different species. By a closer examination, we perceive that the white and brown stripes of the ground squirrel are differently disposed from those of the palm squirrel. In the palm squirrel, the white stripe, which extends along the spine of the back, is black or brown on the ground squirrel, and the white stripes are placed next

\* *Sciurus gentilis* Cail, *muscula Africana* Clusii, eodem nobis videtur. — Descriptio muscule Africane cum sciuri gentili descriptione satis bene convenit, ut non dubitem idem animal esse: Hæc similis est sciuro a clarissimo Dom. Lister observato et descripto; *Raii Synops. Quad.* p. 216.

† Catesby, *Hist. Nat. de la Caroline*, tom. ii. p. 75.

‡ Edwards, *Nat. Hist. of Birds*, part iv. p. 181.

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the black, as the black are next the white in the palm squirrel. Besides, the palm squirrel has only three white stripes; but the ground squirrel has four. The latter turns his tail upon his back, but the former does not. The palm squirrel dwells upon trees; but the ground squirrel keeps always on the surface of the earth, and, from this circumstance, he has obtained his name. In fine, the ground squirrel is smaller than the palm squirrel: From all these considerations, they appear to be two distinct species.

With regard to the Barbary squirrel, as it is a native of the same continent and climate, as it is of the same size, and nearly of the same figure, with the palm squirrel, they might be considered as varieties of the same species. By comparing, however, the description and figure of the Barbary squirrel given by Caius \*, and copied by Aldrovandus † and Johnston ‡, with the description and figure we have given of the palm squirrel, and by again comparing Edwards's description and figure of the Barbary squirrel, we shall perceive distinctions so remarkable as to point out these animals as belonging to different species. All the three are in the royal cabinet. In the Barbary squirrel, the head and face are rounder, the ears larger, and the hair of the tail longer and more bushy, than in the palm squirrel. In

\* *Sciurus gentilis* Cail, apud Gesner. *Hist. Quad.* p. 847.

† Aldrov. de *Quad. Digit.* p. 405.

‡ Johnst. de *Quad.* p. 113.

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the form of the head and body, the Barbary squirrel resembles the squirrel more than the rat, and the palm squirrel resembles the rat more than the squirrel. The Barbary squirrel has four white stripes, the palm squirrel only three. In the palm squirrel, the middle white stripe runs along the spine of the back; but, in the Barbary squirrel, the stripe along the back is black mixed with red, &c. Besides, these animals have nearly the same manners and dispositions as the common squirrels: They all feed upon fruits, which they carry to their mouth by their fore-paws. They have the same voice and cry, the same instinct and agility. They are extremely gentle and lively. They are easily tamed, and contract such an attachment to their habitation, that, after leaving it, they spontaneously return. The figure of both is handsome. Their robe, which is striped with white, is more beautiful than that of the squirrel; their size is smaller, their body lighter, and their movements equally prompt. Like the common squirrel, the palm and Barbary squirrels dwell on the tops of trees; but the ground squirrel never rises from the earth, in which, like the long-tailed field-mouse, he makes a retreat impenetrable by the water. Unless completely tamed, he bites every person indiscriminately\*. Hence, in manners and dispositions, he has a greater resemblance to the rats and field-mice than to the squirrels.

\* Voyage du Pays des Hurons, par Sagard Theodat, p. 306.

Plate CXVII.



PALM SQUIRREL.

Plate CXLVIII.



BARBARY SQUIRREL.

Plate CXLIX.



GROUND SQUIRREL.