

The MONA*, or varied MONKEY.

THE mona is the most common of the monkeys. We had one alive for several years. The mona and the magot agree best with the temperature of our climate. This circumstance is alone sufficient to prove, that the mona is not a native of the southern regions of Africa and the East Indies; and, in fact, it is found in Barbary, Arabia, Persia, and other parts of Asia

* *Mona, mona, monia, monia*, the names of the long-tailed monkeys in the Morek, Spanish, and Provencal languages. — * *Peperiantur in Mauritanie sylvis simiarum variae speciei, quarum quae caudam gerant monae dicuntur: Leo. Africa. Descrip. vol. ii. p. 757. — Simiae caudatae et barbatae, quae vulgo monachi vocantur: Prosper. Alpini. Hist. Egypt. p. 242. Nota. The term monkey, which the British give to the long-tailed apes, is derived from *monachi*; and both seem to come from *mona*, or *monia*, the original names of these animals.*

Varied monkey, with a short thick nose, of a dirty flesh colour; hair on the sides of the face, and under the throat, long; the colour yellow and black; on the forehead, gray; above the eyes, from ear to ear, a black line; the upper part of the body dusky and red; the belly whitish; outside of the thighs, and the feet black; the tail of a cinereous brown; length about a foot and a half, the tail above two; Pennant's Synops. of Zood. p. 118.

Kebo, and *kiper*, names by which the Greeks and Arabs denote the long-tailed apes, with variegated colours.

Cercopithecus pili ex nigro et rufo variegatis vestitus, pedibus nigris, cauda cinerea: Le singe varie; Brisson. Zood. p. 141.

which

which were known to the ancients*, who called it *kebos*, *cebur*, or *cephus*, on account of the variety of its colours. Its face is brown, with a kind of beard interspersed with white, yellow, and a little black. The hair on the top of the head and neck is a mixture of yellow and black: That on the back is a mixture of red and black. The belly, as well as the inside of the thighs and legs, are whitish. The external parts of the legs and feet are black, and the tail is of a deep gray colour. There are two small white spots, one on each side of the root of the tail, a crescent of gray hair on the front, and a black band from the eyes to the ears, and from the ears to the shoulders and arms. Some have called it *nonne* from a corruption of *mona* or *mona*, and others the *old man*, on account of its gray beard. But the vulgar appellation of *varied monkey* is best known, and corresponds with the Greek name *kebos*, and Aristotle's definition of the monkey with a long tail, and various colours.

In general, the monkeys have milder dispositions than the baboons, and their character is less melancholy than that of the apes. They are extravagantly vivacious, but have no ferocity; for they become tractable the moment their attention is fixed by fear or restraint. The mona is particularly susceptible of education, and even of some attachment to those who take

* *Monachi simiae caudatae et barbatae ex Aethiopia locis conterminis in Egyptum deducuntur: suntque admodum elucere et munda; Prosper. Alpini. Hist. Egypt. p. 242.*

care

care of him. The one we kept allowed himself to be touched and carried about by the people with whom he was acquainted; but, to others, he permitted not this freedom, and even bit them. He likewise endeavoured to obtain his liberty: He was fixed with a long chain. When he could either break the chain or disengage himself, he fled to the fields, and, though he did not spontaneously return, he allowed himself to be taken by his master. He eat every thing, roasted meat, bread, and particularly fruits. He likewise searched for spiders, ants, and insects *. When several morsels were thrown to him at once, he filled his cheeks with them. This practice is common to all the baboons and monkeys, to whom Nature has given pouches in their cheeks, where they can keep a quantity of food sufficient to nourish them for a day or two.

Distinctive Characters of this Species.

The mona has cheek-pouches, and callosities on the buttocks. The tail is about two feet long, and more than half a foot longer than both the body and head. The head is small

* It is probably this species which Ludolf mentions under the denomination of the *Algyptian ape*. 'They come,' says he, 'in great troops. As they are exceedingly fond of ants and worms, they reverse every stone, in order to catch the insects they cover;' *Hist. de l'Algypte*, p. 41.

and

Plate CCLXXXIII.



MONA.

and round; the muzzle is thick and short; and the face is of a bright tawny colour. He has a gray band upon the front, and a black band extending from the eyes to the ears, and from the ears to the shoulders and arms. He has a kind of gray beard, formed by the hairs on his throat, which is longer than the others. The hair on the body is a reddish black, and that on the belly is whitish. The outside of the legs and feet are black; and the tail is of a grayish brown colour, with two white spots on each side of its root. He walks on four feet; and his length, from the point of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, is about a foot and a half. The female is subject to the *menfer*.