

The CHEVROTAINS, or  
SMALL ANTILOPES\*.

THE name *Chevrotain* (*Tragulus*) has been applied to those small animals of the warm regions of Africa and Asia which are mentioned by almost every traveller under the denomination of the *small stag*, or the *small hind*. They, indeed, resemble the stag in the figure of the muzzle, in lightness of body, in the form of the limbs, and in the shortness of the tail. But they differ from him prodigiously in size, the largest not exceeding the magnitude of a hare. Besides, some of them want horns entirely; and, in those which have horns, they are hollow, annulated, and pretty similar to those of the gazelles. Their small cloven foot has also a greater resemblance to the foot of the gazelle than to that of the stag; and their want of pits, or depressions under the eyes, removes them equally from the gazelles and the stags. In this article they approach the goats: But, in fact, they are neither stags, gazelles, nor goats, but constitute one or several distinct species. Seba gives a de-

\* In modern Latin, *Tragulus*; in Senegal, *Gorwei*. According to M. Adanson, the smallest kind is called *Gorwei-kaior*, because it inhabits the province of *Kaior*, which includes Cape Verde and the country adjacent.

scription

scription and figures of five chevrotains\*. The first he calls the *small African hind from Guiney*, which

\* Tabula quadragesima et tertia, No. 1. Cervæ parvula, Africana, ex Guineæ, rubida, sine cornibus. Licet admodum pusilla hæc sit, tamen sua in specie maxima est; quæ congeneres ejus plerumque aliquantum minores deprehenduntur. Caput, magni cervi æmulum, cornibus tamen caret. Cursu saltatque velocissima fuit, longius, gracilibusque pedibus, in binas ungulas, uti in magnis cervis, concinne fissis, innixæ: Neque vero calcaneum in parvam ungulam elongatæ, uti in proceris, sed talus crassius et rotundus est. Pili dorsæ ex fusco rubet; ad ventrem et sub collo albicat. Cauda minus longa, et longius dispersisque pilis vestita, ex fusco, rubro, et albo variegata. Suffragineis pollice facies in hæc illustissime spideæ est. Femellam hæc representamus. Pabulum horum animalculorum cymæ sunt graminum, aliarumque herbarum. Altissimos autem montes descendunt, difficillime, nec nisi ope tendicularum, captandæ. Summus inter delicias ciborum, et pro ferina optima habetur; quo etiam nomine dignissimum manerem administratoribus, illis in locis, dono dantur.

No. 2. Hinnelus, seu cervus juvenis, pergracilis, Africanus. Sallientis hæc in gestu constitutus, tenui gracilique est corpore, atque articulis, instar canis venatici, priori congener, et concolor. Auriculæ medicoriter proluxæ sunt. Cauda, sursum recurvata, quasi crispata est. Maxilla inferior insignes dentes a primo ortu gerit. Pedes, tanquam res pretiosæ, aurum circumcincti, loco pusillorum, ad nicotianam in fistulas adigendam, usurpantur. Sub lit. A. ejusmodi representatur.

No. 3. Cervus juvenis, perpusillus, Guineensis. Minima hæc species est inter omnes quas hactenus hæc in oris videre sicut: Quanquam in nostro museo pedes minoris adhuc asserveremus, prout lit. B. demonstrat. Dantur et aliæ species, quæ binæ, nigricantia, et acuminata cornicula gerunt; ejusmodi sub lit. C. exhibimus. Quotannis novo annulo notantur cornicula, quorum e numero ætas animalculi seputatur: Id, quod in bebis quoque obtinere, notissimum est. Summus Rufforum Imperator, quando musci mei perlustrandi gratia

which is reddish, and without horns; the second, the fawn or young stag of Africa, which is very delicate; the third, the young, very small stag of Guiney; the fourth, the small kind of Surinam, which is reddish, and marked with white spots; the fifth, the African stag, with reddish hair. Of these five chevrotains, the first, second, and third, are evidently the same animal. The fifth, which is larger than the three first, and whose hair is much longer, and of a deeper yellow colour, seems to be only a variety of the

ad me invisere dignabatur, centum mihi aureos offerebat, si tam pusillum ipsi cervum procurare possem: Sed votis exiidi, quidquid impenderim opere.

Tabula quadragesima et quarta. No. 2. Cervula Surinamensis, subrubra, albis maculis notata. Caput, pectus, abdomen, et pedes exceperis, que unicoloria sunt; reliquum, ex raso luteum, maculis albis undique tygriidis in modum, variegatur; auriculae grandes, longae; cauda brevis, obtusa. Cursus rapiditate incredibili vel magnum cervum superat. Memorabile est, cervos Americanos adeo pusillos esse: Quam dentur, leporem qui magnitudine haud excedunt; et omnium maxima species altero tanto circiter major sit, quam quae hac tabula representatur. Cornua vero nunquam gerunt, et pro lapidissima ferina habentur.

Tabula quadragesima et quinta. No. 1. Cervus Africanus, pilo rubro. Parvus quidem est; at isla tamen in specie cervorum maximus, quem hic representamus, ex oris Guineae oriundus. Egimus de his animalculis jam praegressis in tabellis. Interim ut, quantum licet, specierum exhiberetur varietas, hunc quoque ari curavimus incidere; siquidem et specie et pilo discrepat ab aliis. Pilo ei longior est, coloris ex fusco longe obscurioris, quam in praecedentibus. Pedes etiam et crura ejus longiora sunt, et concione admodum subresecta. Ceterum cum prioribus convenit; Seba, vol. i. p. 70. et 73.

first

first kind. The fourth, which Seba mentions as a native of Surinam, appears to be a second variety of this species, which is found in Africa, but not in the southern regions of Asia; and I am inclined to think, that Seba has been ill informed, when he tells us, that this animal came from Surinam. All voyagers mention these small stags or chevrotains as being found in Senegal, Guiney, and the East-Indies; but no traveller affirms that he has seen them in America. If Seba's spotted chevrotain really came from Surinam, we must presume that it had been transported from Guiney, or some other southern region of the Old World. But there seems to be a second species of chevrotain, different from all those we have mentioned, which are only simple varieties of the first. This second species has horns, which are only an inch in length, and as much in circumference. These small horns are hollow, black, a little bended, very sharp at the points, and surrounded at the base with three or four transverse rings. In the King's cabinet, we have the feet of this animal, and one of its horns; and these parts demonstrate, that it is either a chevrotain, or a very minute gazelle. Kolbe, when mentioning this species, says, that its horns were similar to those of the stag, and that they have branches in proportion to their age\*. This is an evident blunder,

\* In Congo, Viga, Guiney, and other places near the Cape of

blunder, as appears from a bare inspection of the horns themselves.

The figure of these animals is elegant, and their members are finely proportioned to their size. They make prodigious bounds; but it is probable that they cannot run long; for the Indians overtake them in the chase\*. The Indians hunt these animals, and kill them with sticks or small darts. They are in great request, on account of the delicacy of their flesh.

By comparing the relations of voyagers, it appears, 1. That the chevrotain, whose figure we have given, and who wants the horns, is peculiar

of Good Hope, we find a species of goat which I call the *Congo goat*. It is not larger than a hare; but its beauty and symmetry are truly admirable. Its horns resemble those of the stag, and have also branches in proportion to their age. Its legs are very handsome, and so small, that the inferior part of them is often used as a tobacco stopper. They are mounted with gold or silver; *Description du Cap de Bonne-espérance, par Kälbe, tom. iii. p. 39.*

\* The inhabitants of a small island near Java bring hinds of the size of a hare, which the Indians take in the chase; *Voyage de la Gravel, tom. iii. p. 73. et p. 93.* There is still another kind of little quadrupeds. They are extremely handsome; their horns are black, and their legs, though proportioned to the size of their bodies, are so slender, that some of them exceed not, in thickness, the stalk of a tobacco-pipe. I send you one ornamented with gold, &c.—These small animals are extremely fleet, and make surprising bounds. I have seen some of those which we seized spring over a wall of ten or twelve feet high. The Negroes call this animal the *King of the Harts*; *Voyage de Guinée, par Besman, p. 252.*

to the East-Indies\*; 2. That the one with horns is the chevrotain of Senegal, called *Guevei* by the natives†; 3. That the male *guevei* has horns‡, and that the female has none; 4. That

\* The Guiney Mule is nine inches and a half long. The head, legs, and whole upper part of the body are tawny, and the belly is white. It has no spurious hoofs. There are two very broad cutting teeth in the lower jaw, and on each side of them, three others very slender. In the upper jaw there are two small tusks. The ears are large, and the tail an inch long. In the possession of Mr. Guy of York-Buildings, who said it came from Guiney. M. de Buffon says it is found in the East-Indies; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood. p. 59.*

Tragulus Guineensis; *Brisson, Zood. p. 66.*

Tragulus Indicus; *Klein, Zood. p. 21.*

Molchus pygmaeus, pedibus humano digito angustioribus; *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 92.*

† The Royal Antelope has very short, straight horns, black and shining as jet, and scarce two inches long. The ears are broad; and the height not above nine inches. The legs are not thicker than a goose quill. The colour is a reddish brown. The females want horns; *Pennant's Synops. of Zood. p. 28.*

King of the Harts; *Besman's Voyage, p. 236.*

Petite biche; *Deshayes, tom. i. p. 312.*

Cervula parva Africana; *Seba Mus. tom. i. p. 70. tab. 43.* *Aloupin's Voyage, p. 207.*

‡ In the kingdom of Acara, on the Gold Coast, we find hinds so small that they exceed not eight or nine inches in height. Their legs are not thicker than a goose quill. The males have horns, which bend back on the neck, and are two or three inches long. They have no branches or antlers, but are twisted, and as black and shining as jet. These small animals are very tame, fawning, and caressing; but they are so extremely delicate, that no attempts to transport them into Europe have ever succeeded; *Voyage de Deshayes, tom. i. p. 31.* See also *L'Hist. Gen. des Voyages, par M. l'Abbé Prevost, tom. iv. p. 75.*

the chevrotain, spotted with white, and which Seba says is brought from Surinam, is, on the contrary, a native of the East-Indies, and particularly of Ceylon\*, where it is called *Memina*. We must, therefore, conclude, that there are only two known species of chevrotains, the memina, or Indian kind, without horns, and the guevei or chevrotain of Guiney, with horns; that the five species of Seba are only varieties of the memina; and that the smallest kind, called *Guevei-kaior* in Senegal, is only a variety of the guevei.

None of these small animals can subsist, except in very warm climates. They are so extremely delicate, that it is with the utmost difficulty they can be transported alive into Europe, where they soon perish. They are gentle, familiar, and most beautifully shaped. Beyond all comparison, they are the smallest cloven-footed animals. From this last character, they should produce but few young at a litter. From their

\* In the island of Ceylon, there is an animal called *Memina*, which is not larger than a hare, but has a perfect resemblance to the fallow-deer. Its colour is gray, spotted with white, and its flesh is excellent; *Knox's Hist. of Ceylon*, p. 21. See also *L'Hist. Gen. des Voyages*, par M. l'Abbé Prevost, tom. viii. p. 545.

Indian Musk: The length is one foot five inches, and the weight five pounds and a half. It is of a cinereous colour, with the throat, breast, and belly white. The sides and haunches are spotted, and barred, transversely, with white. The ears are long and open, and the tail very short; *Pennant's Synops. of Quad.* p. 59.

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minuteness, on the contrary, they ought to bring forth a great number. On this subject, we must wait for information from those who have an opportunity of observing their œconomy. We imagine that they bring forth but one or two at a time, like the gazelles, roe-deer, &c. But perhaps they produce more frequently; for they are very numerous in India, Java, Ceylon, Senegal, Congo, and in all the very warm countries; and none of them are found in America, or in any of the temperate regions of the Old Continent.

## S U P P L E M E N T.

WE have here added the figure of a chevrotain, which differs from that in the original work; where it was remarked, that the skin of the chevrotain is variegated with white spots, and that Seba maintained that it was found in Surinam. It exists not, however, in America, but in the East Indies, where it is called *Memina*. Under this denomination, we received the skin of a chevrotain from Ceylon, which had a perfect resemblance to the description we had given of it. By comparing this with our original figure, we shall perceive that none of these animals have horns, and that they are both varieties of the same species only.