

THE HYÆNA*.

THOUGH Aristotle † has left us two characters by which alone this animal is easily distinguished from all others; yet travellers and naturalists have confounded the hyæna with no less than four different species, namely, the jackal, the glutton, the civet, and the baboon. They are carnivorous and ferocious, like the hyæna, and each of them has some resemblance to him, which might give rise to the mistake. The

* The hyæna has long, sharp pointed, naked ears, an upright mane, high shoulders, and the fore legs higher than the hind legs. The hair on the body is coarse, rough, pretty long, of an ash-colour, marked with long black stripes from the back downwards, and others cross the legs. The tail is very full of hair, sometimes plain, and sometimes barred with black. His face is that of a large dog; but he is very strong made; Pennant's *Species of Quad.* p. 161.

In Arabic, *Zala*; in the language of Barbary, *Dubbab*; in Persian, *Kishtar* or *Coghar*.

Hyæna; *Arist. Hist. Anim.* lib. vi. c. 32. *Plinius*, lib. viii. c. 30.

Taxus porcina, seu hyæna veterum; *Kaempfer, Amoen.* p. 411. Canis hyæna, cauda recta annulata, pilis cervicis erectis, auriculis nudis, palmis tetradactylis; *Less. Syn. Nat.* p. 58. The assailed tail, which is also mentioned by Kaempfer, is neither very sensible, nor constant. The hyæna which I examined had every other character ascribed to it by Linnaeus. The tail was not annulated, but only mixed with brown upon a gray ground, which formed a kind of undulations rather than rings.

Lupus marinus; *Belon. Aquat.* p. 33. *Göfner. Quad.*

† *Aristot. Hist. Anim.* lib. vi. c. 32. lib. viii. c. 5.

jackal

jackal inhabits the same countries, and, like the hyæna, has nearly the form of a wolf, feeds upon dead carcases, and digs them out of the sepulchres. The glutton is equally voracious, has the same appetite for putrified flesh, the same instinct of digging the dead out of their graves; and, though he lives in a different climate, and his figure is very different from that of the hyæna, this conformity of natural dispositions was sufficient to make authors confound them together. The civet is found in the same countries, and, like the hyæna, has long hair along the back, and a particular fissure or orifice. These singular characters, which belong to no other animals, misled Belon into the notion that the civet was the hyæna of the ancients. The baboon has still less resemblance to the hyæna than the other three; for it has hands and feet like those of a man or a monkey. Naturalists, therefore, could be deceived by the name only: In Barbary, the hyæna, according to Dr. Shaw, is called *dubbab*, and the baboon, according to Marmol and Leo Africanus, is called *dabub*; and, as the baboon is found in the same climates, digs the earth, and is nearly of the same form with the hyæna, these affinities first deceived travellers, and naturalists copied the blunder, without sufficient examination. Even those who have clearly distinguished these two animals, have given to the hyæna the name of *dabub*, which belongs to the baboon. Hence

the hyæna is not the *dabub* of the Arabians, nor the *jesef* or *sefef* of the Africans, as we are told by naturalists *. Neither should he be confounded with the *deeb* of Barbary. But, to prevent all future confusion arising from names, we shall, in a few words, give a detail of the researches we have made with regard to these animals.

Aristotle employs two names, *hyæna* and *glanur*. To be convinced that these appellations denote the same animal, we have only to compare the passages where they occur †. The ancient Latins preserved the name *hyæna*, and never used that of *glanur*. Among the modern Latins, we find the words *ganus* or *gannus* ‡, and

* Charleton, Exercit. p. 14. Brisson. Regn. Anim. p. 234.

† Hyæna colore lupi prope est, sed hirsutior, et juba per totum dorsum prædicta est. Quod autem de ea ferret, genitale simul et maris et femine eadem habere, commentitium est. Sed virile similiter, atque in lupis et canibus, commentitium est. Quod vero feminæ esse videtur, sub cauda positum est, figura famule genitali femine, sed singulo mentu. Sub hoc meatu excrementorum est. Quinetiam femina hyæna præter suum illud etiam simile, ut mas habet sub cauda sine ullo meatu, a quo excrementorum meatu est, atque sub eo genitale verum continetur. Vultum etiam hyæna femina, ut cæteræ hujuscemodi femine animantes, habet. Sed raro hyæna femina capitur, jam inter undecim numero, unum tantum cepisse, venator retulit quidam; *Id. vi. cap. 32.*—Quam autem alii glanur, alii hyænam appellant, corpore non minore, quam lupus est, juba qua equus, sed feris duriore, longioreque, et per totum dorsum porrecta. Molius hæc insidias homini, canes etiam vomitionem hominis imitando caput, et sepulchra effodit humanæ avida carnis, ac eruit; *Arist. Hist. Anim. lib. viii. cap. 5.*

‡ Geiser. Hist. Quad. p. 555.

bellus,

bellus *, substituted for *hyæna*. According to Rafis †, the Arabians call the hyæna *kabo*, or *zabo*, names seemingly derived from the word *zeeb*, which, in their language, signifies a wolf. In Barbary, the hyæna is called *dubbab*, as appears from the description given of it by Dr. Shaw ‡. In Turkey, the hyæna, according to Nieremberg ||, is named *zirilam*, in Persia, *kass-taar*, according to Kaempfer §, and *castar*, according

* Belbi, id est, hyæna, decem fuerunt sub Gordiano Romæ.

Julius Capitolinus; *Id. ibid.*

† Geiser. Hist. Quad. p. 555.

‡ The *dubbab* is of the badger-kind, near the bigness of a wolf. Its neck is so remarkably stiff, that, in looking behind, or snatching obliquely at any object, it is obliged, in the same manner with the hog, the badger, and crocodile, to move the whole body. It is of a buff colour, inclining to be reddish, with some transverse streaks of a dark brown; whilst the hairs upon the neck are near a span long, which it can occasionally erect, notwithstanding they are much softer than the bristles of a hog. The paws are large and well armed, serving, in want of other food, to lay open the medulla of the palmæ, or dwarf palm; to dig up the roots of plants, and sometimes the graves of the dead. . . . Next to the lion and panther, the *dubbab* is the fiercest of the wild beasts of Barbary; and, from the characteristics of having long hair upon its neck, like a mane, moving its neck with difficulty, and disturbing the graves of the dead, it may lay a greater claim to the hyæna of the ancients than the civet cat, or the badger, which are smaller animals; *Shaw's Travels*, p. 173.

|| Euseb. Nieremb. Hist. Nat. p. 181.

§ Kassiar, id est, taxus porcinæ, five hyæna veterum (*Vid. in tab. § 4. No. 4.*), animal est, porci, seu *Scropha grandioris*, magnitudinem ejusdemque formam corporis obtinens, si caput, caudam, et pedes excipio. Pili vestitur longis, incanis, in ora densi, porcino more, longioribus, pene spinam alibus, apicibus nigris; caput habet lupino non dissimile, rufis nigro, fronte longiori,

ing to Pietro della Valle*. These are all the appellations which can, with propriety, be referred to the hyæna. It is probable, however, that the *lycaon* and *crocuta* of India and Æthiopia, mentioned by the ancients, are no other than the hyæna. Porphyry says expressly†, that the Indian *crocuta* is the hyæna of the Greeks. Indeed, all that the ancients have said, whether true or fabulous, concerning the *lycaon* and *crocuta*, apply to the hyæna. But we shall postpone all farther conjectures on this subject, till we come to treat of fabulous animals, and the relations they have with real ones.

eri, oculis rostro propinquieribus nigris et volubilibus, auribus nudis, fuscis, et acuminatis; cauda donatur prælonga, villis densa longioribus vestita, circulisque nigricantibus ad decorem intercepta. Crura in orbem quodammodo variegata, posteriora præcibis sunt longiora; pedes in quatuor ungues divisi, quos lapides more contrahit, ne videantur. Corpus habet stris a dorso ventre tenuis pictum paucis, latis, et inæqualibus, alternatim fuscis et nigris. . . . Mira vi terram effodit, cavernisque abditum se illatrabare amat, diu sine cibo vivit, et raptu victum querit. . . . Ferocet et carnivora bestia, quippe in humana fœcibus cadaveri, quæ noctu ex tumulis impigre effodit, &c.; Kaempfer, Amoenit., p. 411, 412.

* At Seliras, I saw a living animal, which the Persians called *eghar*. It was as strong as a large dog. It was of the size, figure, and colour of a tiger (he means the panther), and the head and muzzle were long, like those of a hog. This animal is said to feed on human flesh, and to dig up the carcases from the sepulchres, which made me conjecture that it might be the hyæna of the ancients. However this may be, it was a ferocious creature which I had never before seen; *Voyage de Pietro della Valle*, tom. v. p. 343.

† Porphyrius, in eo opere quod inscripsit de abstinencia ab usu carniū, hyænam dicit ab Indis appellari *crocutam*; *Gillius apud Gesner. Hist. Quad.* p. 555.

The

The panther of the Greeks, the *lupus canarius* of Gaza, and the *lupus Armenius* of the Arabians and modern Latins, seem to be the same animal, namely, the jackal, which Pollux says is called *cical* by the Turks*, or *thacal*, according to Spoon and Wheeler†: The modern Greeks call it *zabalia*‡, the Persians *fecbal*§, or *schachal*¶, and the Moors of Barbary *deeb*** or *jackal*. We shall retain the name *jackal*, because it has been adopted by some travellers, and content ourselves with remarking in this place, that he differs from the hyæna not only in size, figure, and colour, but likewise in his manners; for the jackals commonly go in troops, and the hyæna is a solitary animal. Our modern nomenclators, in imitation of Kaempfer, call the jackal *lupus aureus*, because his hair is of a lively yellow colour.

The jackal, as we have seen, is an animal very different from the hyæna, as well as from the glutton, which last is peculiar to the northern regions of Lapland, Russia, and Siberia: It is even unknown in the temperate climates, and, consequently, could never inhabit Arabia, and the other warm countries frequented by the hyæna. Besides, the figure of the glutton re-

* Gesner, *Hist. Quad.* p. 675.

† Travels of Jacob Spoon and George Wheeler, vol. i. p. 114. ‡ *Ibid.*

§ Voyage de Chardin en Perse, tom. ii. p. 29.

¶ Kaempfer, *Amoenit. Exot.* p. 413.

** Shaw's Travels, p. 174.

fembles that of a very large badger; his limbs are so short, that his belly nearly reaches to the ground; he has five toes both on the fore and hind-feet; no mane, and black hair over all the body, except sometimes a few brownish yellow hairs on the flanks. In a word, he possesses nothing in common with the hyæna, but his voracity. He was likewise unknown to the ancients, who had not penetrated far into the northern regions of Europe. Olaus* is the first author who mentions this animal, which he has called *gulo* on account of its gluttony. He was afterwards denominated *rošomak* in the Sclavonian language †, and *jerff*, or *wildfras* in the German. The French travellers have called him *glouton* ‡. In this species there are varieties, as well as in that of the jackal, which shall be pointed out in the particular history of those animals. But these varieties, instead of making him approach nearer the hyæna, remove the two species to a still greater distance.

The civet has nothing in common with the hyæna, except the fissure or sac under the tail,

* Inter omnia animalia quæ immensi voracitate credantur insatiabiles, gulo in partibus Sueciæ septentrionalis, præcipuum suscepit nomen, ubi patrio sermone *Jerff* dicitur, et lingua Germanica *Wildfras*, Sclavonice *Rošomak*, a multa commestione; Latina vero non nisi fœticio gulo, videlicet a gulositate, appellatur; *Hist. de Gent. Septentr. ab Olo Magno*, p. 138.

† Hist. de la Laponie, par Scheffer, p. 314.—*Razskrytsai*, Aust. Hist. Nat. Polon. p. 311.

‡ Relation de la Grande Tartarie, p. 8.

and

and the mane along the neck and spine. It differs from the hyæna in the figure and size of the body, being one half smaller. Its ears are short and covered with hair, while those of the hyæna are long and naked. Besides, it has shorter limbs, and five toes on each foot; but the legs of the hyæna are long, and he has only four toes on each foot. Neither does the civet dig the earth in quest of dead bodies. It is, therefore, extremely easy to distinguish these animals.

With regard to the baboon, which is the *papio* of the Latins, he seems to have been mistaken for the hyæna by an ambiguity of names, to which a passage of Leo Africanus*, copied by Marmol †, seems to have given rise. The *dabub*, say these two authors, 'is of the size and figure of the wolf, and tears dead bodies from the sepulchres.' The similarity of the name *dabub* with *dabbab*, which last denotes the hyæna, joined to the avidity for dead carcases, common to the *dabub* and *dabbab*, have made them be mistaken for the same animal, though it be expressly mentioned in the very passages we have quoted, that the *dabub* has hands and feet like

* *Dabub* Arabica appellatione Africanis *Sesif* dicitur. Animal et magnitudine et forma lupum refert, pedes et cetera hominis similes; reliquo bestiarum genere non est noxius, sed humana corpora sepulchris evellit ac devorat; *Leon. Afric. de Afric. Descript.* tom. ii. p. 756.

† L'Asiique de Marmol, tom. i. p. 57.

those

those of a man, which corresponds with the baboon, but is inapplicable to the hyæna.

By looking at Belon's figure of the *lupus marinus**, which Gesner has copied †, this animal might be mistaken for the hyæna, because there is a considerable resemblance. But this description corresponds not with our hyæna; for he tells us, that the *lupus marinus* is an amphibious animal, which feeds on fishes, and has sometimes been seen on the coasts of the British ocean. Besides, Belon mentions none of the peculiar characters which distinguish the hyæna from all other quadrupeds. Belon, prepossessed, perhaps, with the notion that the civet was the hyæna of the ancients, has given the figure of the true hyæna, under the name of the *lupus marinus*; for the characters of the hyæna are so singular, that it is almost impossible to mistake him. He is, perhaps, the only quadruped that has four toes on each foot. Like the badger, he has an orifice under the tail, which penetrates not into the body. He has long, straight, naked ears; a head shorter and more square than that of the wolf; but his legs, particularly the hind-ones, are longer. His eyes are placed like those of a dog. The hair of his body and mane is of a dark gray colour, mixed with a little yellow and black, and transverse dusky undulations. He is

* Belon, de Aquatil. p. 35.

† Gesner. Hist. Quadrup. p. 674.

of the size of a wolf, only his body is shorter and more compact.

This savage and solitary animal lives in the caverns of the mountains, in the clefts of rocks, or dens which he digs for himself in the earth. His disposition is extremely ferocious, and, though taken young, can never be tamed*. Like the wolf, he feeds on prey; but he is stronger and more daring. He sometimes attacks men, and rushes with fury upon cattle of all kinds †. He follows the flocks, and often breaks down the doors of stables, and the inclosures of the sheep-folds. His eyes sparkle in the dark; and he is said to see better in the night than in the day. All naturalists agree, that his

* Hyænam marem Ispahanî curiositatis causa alebat dives quidam Gabr seu ignicola, subzibilli Gubeystan, captam dum ebera fugeret, in latibulis vicini montes. Ad eam spectandam progressus, bestiam eo situ depinxit, quo in fovea subsidii domarum ergyarem profunditatis (sui inclusa servabatur) cubantem invenit. Desiderio nostro possessor cuncti ex parte satisfacturus cum elocui quoque caravit in aream; quod ut tuto fieret, demisso sane rostrum prius illaqueabat; mox descendentes ferri protenta utrinque labra fusticulo ex pilis contorto, strenue colligebant. Hoc facto educitur, laxasque fene, qui rostrum frangebant, bestia latius discurrere permittitur, non semel apprehensa, more athletico in terram projicitur, ac variis laceffitur vexationibus; quibus illa irritò vocendi nisu oblectata, subinde mugitum edidit visalio simillimum. Narrahaat Gabrî sic frangatam nuper se opposuisse duobus leonibus, quos aspiciente oculo serenissimo in fugam verterit; Kämpfer, Amavietates, p. 412, 413.

† In Abyssinia, the wolves are small and timorous. But they have an animal called hyæna, which is extremely bold and rapacious. He attacks men in the open day as well as during the night, and often breaks down the doors and inclosures of the sheep-folds; Hist. de l'Abyssinie, par Raddi, p. 41.

cry resembles the groanings of a man who vomits, or rather the lowing of a calf, according to Kaempfer*.

The hyæna defends himself against the lion, is not afraid of the panther, and attacks the ounce, which is not able to resist him. When prey fails, he digs the earth with his feet, and tears out the dead bodies of animals and men, who, in the countries which he inhabits, are equally buried in the fields. He is found in almost all the warm climates of Africa and Asia; and the animal called *farasse* at Madagascar †, which in figure resembles the wolf, but is larger, stronger, and more cruel, is perhaps the same with the hyæna.

A greater variety of absurd stories have been related concerning the hyæna than any other quadruped. The ancients gravely tell us, that the hyæna is alternately male and female; that, when it brings forth, sucks, and rears its young, it continues to be a female during the whole year; but that, the following year, it resumes the functions of the male, and makes its companion submit to the lot of the female. This story, it is apparent, has no other foundation than the fissure under the tail, which is common to the

* Kaempfer, loc. supra citat.

† In Madagascar, there are animals called *farasse*, of the same nature with the wolf, but still more voracious; *Mém. par Jernin à l'Hist. des Indes Orient.* p. 168.—See also l'*Hist. de Orénoque*, par Joseph Jussieu, tom. iii. p. 603.

male

Plate CXXVIII.



HYÆNA.

male as well as the female, independent of the organs of generation peculiar to both sexes, which, in the hyæna, are similar to those of all other quadrupeds. The hyæna has been said to imitate the human voice, to remember the names of shepherds, to call upon, to fascinate, and to deprive them of the power of motion; and, at the same time, to terrify the shepherd-esses, to make them run from and neglect their flocks, to render them frantic with love, &c.—All this might happen without the hyæna! and I here stop, lest I should, with Pliny, incur the censure of delighting in compiling and relating ridiculous fables.

S U P P L E M E N T.

IN the year 1773, I saw a male hyæna at the fair of St. Germain. The hyæna above described was perfectly ferocious; but this male, having been tamed when young, was remarkably gentle; for, though his master often provoked him with a cudgel, in order to make him erect his mane, he instantly afterwards seemed to forget the affront. He played with his keeper, who put his hand into the animal's mouth, without the least apprehension of danger. This hyæna was precisely of the same species with that whose description I have formerly given; and I have
nothing

nothing to add to it, except that the tail of this male was all white, without any mixture of other colours. He was somewhat larger than the first, being three feet two inches long, from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, and carried his head lower than is represented in the figure. His height was two feet three inches; and his hair was white, intermixed with streaks and spots of black, both on the body and legs.

In the south part of the island of Meroë, there are hyænas much larger than those of Barbary. Their muzzle is longer, and has a greater resemblance to that of a dog. This animal is so strong, that he carries off a man to the distance of a league or two, without stopping. His hair is coarse, browner than that of the other kind, and the transverse streaks are blacker. His mane erects not from the head, but from the tail. Mr. Bruce was the first who remarked of this hyæna, as well as that of Syria and Barbary, that, when forced to fly, they are lame of the left hind-leg, which continues so remarkably for about a hundred paces, that the animal seems as if he would tumble down on his left side*.

* Note communicated to M. de Buffon by Mr. Bruce.

The CIVET* and the ZIBET†.

IT is the opinion of most naturalists, that the perfume called *musk* was furnished by one species of animal only. I have seen two of these animals, which, it must be allowed, have many essential relations, both in their external and internal structure; but they differ from each other by such a number of other characters, as entitle them

* The civet has short rounded ears, sky-blue eyes, a sharp nose, black at the point; the sides of the face, chin, breast, legs, and feet, are black; the rest of the face, and part of the sides of the neck, are white, tinged with yellow. From each ear three black stripes proceed, and end at the throat and shoulders. The back and sides are cinereous, tinged with yellow, and marked with large dusky spots disposed in rows. The hair is coarse, and that on the top of the body is longest, standing up like a mane. The tail is sometimes wholly black, and sometimes spotted near the base. The length, from nose to tail, is about two feet three inches, that of the tail is fourteen inches; and the body is pretty thick; Pennant's *Synops. of Zood.* p. 234.

Animal Zibethi; *Catæ agad Gessner*, p. 837.

Civet; *Mém. pour servir a l'Hist. des Animaux, prem. partie* p. 157.

Civet cat; *Rail Synops. Zood.* p. 178.

Costi civetta vulgo; *Klein, Zood.* p. 73.

Meles fasciis et maculis albis, nigris, et resuscantibus variegata; Brisson. Zood. p. 186.

† The zibet has short round ears, a sharp long nose, a pale cinereous face. The head and lower part of the neck are mixed with dirty white, brown, and black. The sides of the neck are marked with stripes of black, beginning near the ears, and