

The COAITA* and EXQUIMA†.

NEXT to the ouarine and alouate, the coaita is the largest of the sapajous. I saw one of them at the palace of the Duke of Bouil-

* Four-fingered monkey, with a long flat face, of a swarthy flesh colour; eyes sunk in the head; ears like the human; limbs of a great length, and uncommonly slender; hair black, long, and rough; only four fingers on the hand, being quite destitute of a thumb; five toes on the feet; nails flat; tail long, and naked below, near the end; body slender; about a foot and a half long; tail near two feet, and so prehensile as to serve every purpose of a hand.

Coaita, or *quaita*, the name of this animal in Guiana.

Circopithecus major niger, faciem humanam referens. *Quaita*; Barrière *Hist. Nat. de la Franc. Equin.* p. 150.

Quaita; Bancroft's *Guiana*, p. 131.

Cercopithecus in pedibus anterioribus pollice carens; cauda inferior versus apicem pilis destituta; Le Belzebub; *Briffon. Quad.* p. 150.

Simia paniscus, caudata, imberbis, atra, cauda prehensilis, et apicem subius nuda; *Linn. Syst. Nat.* p. 37.

Spider monkey; *Edwards's Glazings*, vol. iii. p. 222.

Simia fusca major, palmis tetradactylis, cauda prehensilis, ad apicem subius nuda; the four-fingered monkey; *Brouss. Hist. of Jamaica*, chap. v. *fig. 5.*

† Spotted monkey, with a long white beard; colour of the upper parts of the body reddish, as if they had been singed, marked with white specks; the belly and chin whitish; tail very long: Is a species of a middle size.

Cercopithecus barbarus Guineensis, *Exquima*; *Marcgrav. Hist. Nat. Brasil.* p. 227. *Raif Syn. Quad.* p. 156.

Cercopithecus barbarus fuscus, punctis albis interpersis, barba alba; *Briffon. Quad.* p. 147. No. 23. p. 148. No. 24.

Simia Diana, caudata, barbata, fronte barbaque fastigiata; *Linn. Syst. Nat.* p. 38.

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lon, where, by its familiarity, and even its caresses, it procured the affection of those to whose charge it was committed. But, notwithstanding all the care and attention it received, it was unable to resist the cold of the winter 1764. It died, to the regret of its master, who was so obliging as to send it to me, to be placed in the Royal Cabinet. I saw another in the house of the Marquis de Montmirail. This was a male, and the former a female. Both were equally tractable and well tamed. Hence this sapajou, by its mild and docile disposition, differs much from the ouarine and alouate, who are so wild that no art can tame them. Neither has it, like them, an osseous pouch in the throat. Like the ouarine, its hair is black, but rough. The coaita likewise differs from all the other sapajous, by having only four fingers on his hands. By this character, and his prehensile tail, he is easily distinguished from the monkeys, who have all five fingers, and a flaccid tail.

The animal called *exquima* by Marcgrave, is very nearly allied to the *coaita*, and is perhaps only a variety of that species. This author seems to have been deceived when he tells us that the *exquima* is a native of Guiney and Congo. The figure he has given of it was alone sufficient to have convinced him of his error; for it represents this animal with a tail rolled up at the point, a character which belongs exclusively to the sapajous. Of course, Marcgrave's *exquima* is not a monkey

a monkey of Guiney, but a sapajou with a prehensile tail, which had been transported thither from Brasil. The name *exquima*, or *quima*, by abstracting the article *ex*, and which ought to be pronounced *quima*, is not very different from *quaita*, the manner in which several authors spell the name *coaita*. Hence every circumstance concurs in establishing Marcgrave's *exquima*, which he calls a Guiney monkey, to be a Brazilian *sapajou*, and a variety only of the *coaita*, which it resembles in disposition, size, colour, and the prehensile tail. The most remarkable difference is, that the *exquima* has whitish hair on the belly, and a white beard, two inches long, under the chin*. Our *coaitas* have neither a beard nor white hair on the belly. But these differences seem not sufficient to constitute two distinct species; for we learn from the evidence of travellers, that some *coaitas* are black and others white, and some have beards and others no beards. 'There are,' says Dampier, 'great droves of monkeys, some of them white, but most of them black; some have beards, others

* *Cercopithecus barbatus* Guineensis; in Congo vocatur *exquima*; pilos habet fuscis, sed per totum dorsum quasi adustus seu ferrugineos; fuscis autem punctulatis interspers color albus; venter albidus et montium inferius; barbam quoque egregie albam habet, consuetudinem capillis duos digitos longis et amplius passis quasi ordinatim pexa fuisse; quando hęc species irascitur, os ample diducendo et mandibulas celeriter movendo, exagitat hominem; egregie saltant, varios fructus comedunt; *Marcgr. Hist. Nat. Brasil. p. 227 et 228.* Ubi vide figuram.

'are beardless. They are of a middle size, yet 'extraordinarily fat at the dry season, when the 'fruits are ripe; and they are very good meat, 'for we ate of them very plentifully. The In- 'dians were shy of eating them for a while; 'but they soon were persuaded to it, by seeing 'us feed on them so heartily. In the rainy sea- 'son they have worms in their bowels. I have 'taken a handful of them out of one monkey 'we cut open; and some of them seven or eight 'feet long. They are a very waggish kind of 'monkey, and played a thousand antick tricks 'as we marched at any time through the woods, 'skipping from bough to bough, with the young 'ones hanging at the old ones backs, making 'faces at us, chattering, and, if they had oppor- 'tunity, pissing down purposely on our heads. 'To pass from top to top of high trees, whose 'branches are a little too far asunder for their 'leaping, they will sometimes hang down by 'one another's tails in a chain; and swinging 'in that manner, the lowermost catches hold of 'a bough of the other tree, and draws up the 'rest of them*. All these facts, even the worms in the intestines, correspond with our *coaitas*. M. Daubenton, in dissecting these animals, found a great number of worms, some of which were from twelve to thirteen inches long. It is obvious, therefore, that the *exquima* of Marcgrave is

* Dampier's Voyages, vol. iii. p. 330.

a sapajou of the same species, or, at least, of a species very nearly allied to that of the coaita.

We must likewise remark, that, if the animal mentioned by Linnæus, under the name of *Diana**, is really, as he says, the *exquima* of Marcgrave, he has omitted the *prehensile tail*, which is the most essential character, and ought alone to determine whether this *Diana* belongs to the genus of *sapajous* or to that of the *monkeys*; and, of course, whether it is found in the Old or the New Continent.

Independent of this variety, the characters of which are conspicuous, there are other varieties, though less remarkable, in the species of the coaita. That described by M. Brisson had whitish hair on all the under parts of the body. But those I have seen were entirely black, and had very few hairs on the inferior parts of the body, where the skin appeared, and was equally black with the hair. Of the two coaitas mentioned by Mr. Edwards†, the one was black and

* *Diana simia caudata barbata, fronte barbaque fastigiata. Cercopithecus barbatus Guineensis, Marcgravii.*—Habitat in Guinea, magnitudo felis majoris; nigra punctis albidis. Dorsum pollice ferrugineum, femor subtus helvola, gula pectusque alba, frons pilis erectis albis fastigiata, linea transversa in formam lense crescentis, barba fastigiata nigra subtus alba insidens tuberi adiposo, linea alba ab ano ad genas ab exteriori latere femorum ducta. Ladibunda omnia deiecit, peragines nutriendo salutat, irata ore hiat maxillasque exagitat; vocata respondet gressu; Linn. *Ess. Nat.* p. 38.

† Gleanings, p. 222.

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the other brown. On account of the length and slenderness of their legs and tail, they were called *spider monkeys*.

Some years ago, a coaita was sent me, under the denomination of *chamek*, which, I was told, came from the coast of Peru. I shall give a description of it in the margin*, from which it will appear that this chamek of Peru, with the exception of a few varieties, is the same animal with the coaita of Guiana.

These sapajous are very dexterous and intelligent. They go in companies, and mutually warn and assist each other. It uses its tail as a fifth hand, and seems to employ this instrument more than either its hands or feet†. To balance this

* This animal was brought from the coast of Bancut in Peru, when thirteen months old. It weighed about six pounds. The whole body was black. The skin of the face was naked, of a coarse grain, and of the colour of a Mulatto. The hair was coarse, and from two to three inches in length. The ears, which resembled those of man, were naked, and of the same colour with the face. The tail was one foot ten inches long, five inches thick at the base, and about one inch at the point. It was round, and garlanded with hair above and below about thirteen inches from the origin, but naked below nine inches from the extremity, where the under part of it is flat and furrowed in the middle, and round above. This animal suspends itself by the tail, and likewise uses it as a fifth hand to lay hold of any thing it wants. Its length was thirteen inches from the point of the nose to the origin of the tail. It had only two paws, placed nearly under the armpits.

† This creature has no more than four fingers to each of its feet paws, but the top of the tail is smooth underneath, and on this

this advantage, Nature has deprived this animal of a thumb. We are assured that it seizes fishes with its tail; which is by no means incredible; for we have seen one of our coaitas lay hold in this manner of a squirrel, which had been put into its chamber as a companion. They have the address to break the shells of oysters, in order to eat them*. It is certain, that, with a view to pass from one tree to another, whose branches are too distant for a leap, they form a chain, by hanging down†, linked to each other by their tails, and swinging in that manner till the lowest catches hold of a branch, and draws up the rest. They sometimes pass rivers by the same expe-

dit this it depends for its chief actions; for the creature holds every thing by it, and slings itself with the greatest ease from every tree and post by its means.—It is a native of the main continent; and a part of the food of the Indians; *Rafel, Hist. of Jamaica, chap. v. sect. 5.*

* At the island of Gorgonia, on the coast of Peru, we took notice of several monkeys, who lived partly upon oysters, which they got out of the sea at low water. Their way was, to take up an oyster, and lay it upon a stone, and with another stone to keep beating of it till they had broke the shell in pieces; *Dampier's Voyages, vol. iii. p. 382.*

† In travelling to Panama, I saw, at Capira, one of these monkeys leap from one tree to another, which was on the opposite side of the river. When they want to reach a place which they cannot accomplish by one leap, they link themselves to each other's tail, and by this means form a long chain. They then spring forward, and the first, being aided by the impulse of the rest, reaches the intended branch; and, after fixing himself, he continues to assist the progress of the others till the whole attain their end; *Hist. Nat. du Indes, par Joseph Acosta, p. 200.*

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dient. The females bring forth but one or two young, which they always carry on their back. They eat fishes, worms, and insects; but fruits are their common food. When the fruits are ripe, they become very fat, and their flesh is then said to be excellent*.

Distinctive Characters of these Species.

The coaita has neither cheek pouches nor callosities on the buttocks. He has a very long, prehensile tail. The partition of the nostrils is very thick, and their apertures are placed at a side, and not under the nose. He has only four fingers on his hands or fore feet. Both his hair and skin are black. His face is naked and tawny. His ears are also naked, and resemble those of man. He is about a foot and a half in length; and his tail is longer than the body and head together. He walks on four feet.

The exquima is nearly of the same size with the coaita, and has likewise a prehensile tail. But his colour, instead of being black, is variegated. The hairs on his back are black and yellow, and white on the throat and belly. He has, besides, a remarkable beard. These differ-

* They are of a middle size, yet extraordinarily fat at the dry season, when the fruits are ripe; and they are very good meat, for we ate of them very plentifully; *Dampier's Voyages, vol. iii. p. 330.*

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ences, however, are not sufficient to constitute two distinct species; especially as some coaitas are not entirely black, but are whitish on the throat and belly. The females of these two species are not subject to the periodical evacuation.

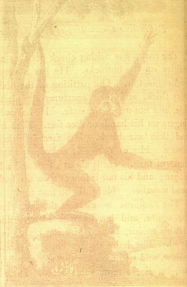


Plate CCLXXXIII.

*Ed. Bell's design.*

COAITA.