

VIII.—Notes on some Mammalia from Fantee, including a new Species of *Macroxus*. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

THE British Museum has received a series of skins of Mammalia that were collected by Mr. Aubinn at Fantee.

*Nandina binotata*.

The collection contains a very large and perfect skin, with its skull, of this species, the head and body being 23 and the tail 22 inches long. It is marked with very distinct moderate-sized spots.

This species seems to vary very greatly in the size of the spots, these being in some much smaller and more numerous than in others, which is particularly the case in two specimens from the east coast of Africa, which we purchased of M. Verreaux. There is a small skin of a young Viverrine animal, but without tail and a great part of the head and without any bones, that appears to belong to this species, sent by Dr. Livingstone to the Museum in 1863.

In the British Museum there is the skin of an animal we received from Dr. Kirk in June 1861 ("it is called 'Nthoro,' which eats mice and poultry, and lives in the lower Shira valley"), which may be a specimen of this species; but the feet are destroyed: the tail is shorter and obscurely ringed with black on the upperside; and the back has only slight indications of small black spots.

*Herpestes Pluto*, Temminck, Esquisses, p. 93;  
Gray, Cat. Carniv. &c. B. M. p. 150.

*Hab.* Fantee.

A skin and perfect skeleton of this species is peculiar for the fur not being grizzled like that of the other *Herpestes*.

*Macroxus Aubinnii*.

Fur blackish olive, closely and abundantly varied with minute rufous dots, rather paler beneath; tail black, lower part of the hairs brown, with black bands and black tips, the brown part occupying more of the hair as it reaches towards the tip of the tail, which ends in a pencil of long hair; whiskers black.

Length of the body 11 inches, tail  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.* Fantee. Two specimens in the British Museum.

This species is at once known by its very uniform and minutely punctulated fur, its long, slender, uniformly coloured tail, which is black at the upper part of the base; but the

*Ann. & Mag. N. Hist.* Ser. 4. Vol. xii.



underside shows that the tail is covered with hairs that are annulated with brown at the base and black at the end, the brown rings becoming more abundant and occupying a greater part of the hairs as they approach the end of the tail, where the black tips only occupy a small part of the ends of the hairs.

The two specimens differ in the brightness of the pale bands on the underside of the tail. In one the hairs are black, and the bands pale and very distinct; in the other the hair is brownish black and the brown bands are indistinct and only slightly paler.

This species I have named after Mr. Aubinn, who has sent many good specimens of Mammalia and birds from Fantee, and is a very intelligent native collector.

I cannot find this species noticed in the 'Esquisses de Zoologie sur la côte de Guinée' of M. Temminck; and it is different from any of the numerous species of African squirrels we have in the Museum.

*Macroxus Wilsonii*, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1867,  
xx. p. 328.

*Hab.* Fantee. B.M.

*Anomalurus Beecroftii*.

*Hab.* Fantee. B.M.

This species has hitherto been said to come from Fernando Po, but I think it is very doubtful.

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#### IX.—Notes on the Family Chelydradæ.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

IN my paper on the development of the bones of the sternum of the aquatic tortoises, I regretted that I had no materials to observe the change of form of the bones during growth in the animals of this family. I still have to regret the same want of young specimens which I could make into skeletons; but the examination of the sternum of the more adult animals shows very great differences to exist in their structure, which divide them into two distinct groups, which perhaps may eventually be considered as families, though they bear very great resemblances to each other.

The pelvic bones are slender and elongate, but they are much more elongate in the trap tortoises (*Eurysterna*) than in the cross-sternal tortoises (*Crucisterna*); they are very



Gray, John Edward. 1873. "VIII.—Notes on some Mammalia from Fantee, including a new species of *Macroxus*." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 12, 65–66.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937308680698>.

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937308680698>

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