

April 9, 1839.

The Rev. F. W. Hope, in the Chair.

A letter was read, from P. L. Strachan, Esq., dated Sierra Leone, February 19th, 1839. It stated that he had sent two African Woodcocks for the Society's Menagerie, and that having only just arrived at Sierra Leone, he had not yet had time to procure other zoological specimens for the Society.

A letter from C. B. Bidwell, Esq., dated Sierra Leone. January 14th, 1839, was read. In this letter Mr. Bidwell states that he had forwarded the skull of an Hippopotamus for the Society's Museum.

In a letter from J. Fremby, Esq., dated Gibraltar, January 30th, 1839, that gentleman states that he had forwarded for the Society the body of a species of Cat, from South America, which he thought would be acceptable for the purpose of dissection.

A letter from the Board of Management of the Saffron Walden Museum was also read. This letter begged the Society's acceptance of two specimens (a male and female) of the *Antilope Isabelina*, a specimen of the *Antilope grimmea*, and a skin of the *Bernicla cana*.

A collection of beautifully finished drawings of Tasmanian Fishes was exhibited to the Members present, these drawings having been sent to the Society by Dr. Lhotsky for that purpose. In a letter accompanying these drawings, Dr. Lhotsky stated that they had all been executed, under his own superintendence, from fresh specimens.

A new species of Hamster was exhibited by Mr. Waterhouse, and characterized as follows :

CRICETUS AURATUS. Cri. aureo-fuscescens, subtùs albidus : pilis mollissimis, suprà ad basin plumbeis, subtùs ad basin cinereis : auribus mediocribus, rotundis : caudà brevissimà pilis albis obsidà.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo ab apice rostri ad caudæ basin ..	7	6
———— caudæ	0	5
———— ab apice rostri ad basin auris	1	6
———— tarsi digitorumque.....	0	10
———— auris	0	7

Hab. Aleppo.

“ This species is less than the common Hamster (*Cricetus vulgaris*), and is remarkable for its deep golden yellow colouring. The No. LXXVI.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

fur is moderately long and very soft, and has a silk-like gloss: the deep golden yellow colouring extends over the upper parts and sides of the head and body, and also over the outer side of the limbs: on the back, the hairs are brownish at the tip, hence in this part the fur assumes a deeper hue than on the sides of the body: the sides of the muzzle, throat, and under parts of the body are white, but faintly tinted with yellow: on the back, and sides of the body, all the hairs are of a deep gray or lead colour at the base; and on the under parts of the body, the hairs are indistinctly tinted with gray at the base. The feet and tail are white. The ears are of moderate size, furnished externally with deep golden-coloured hairs, and internally with whitish hairs. The moustaches consist of black and white hairs intermixed.

"The skull, when compared with that of *Cricetus vulgaris*, differs in not having the anterior root of the zygomatic arch produced anteriorly in the form of a thin plate, which in that animal, as in the Rats, serves to protect an opening which is connected with the nasal cavity: the facial portion of the skull is proportionately longer and narrower: in size there is much difference, the skull of *Cricetus auratus* being one inch and six lines in length, and ten lines in breadth, measuring from the outer side of the zygomatic arches."



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