

December 13th.

Dr. Gray, V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SQUIRREL (*SCIURUS SIAMENSIS*) FROM SIAM, IN THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

Among the animals lately sent by M. Mouhot from Siam are two small Squirrels, which differ from any that we have hitherto received from India or the neighbouring countries.

I am aware that the Indian Squirrels, and indeed Squirrels generally, are very apt to vary; and probably many more species are described than exist in nature; but I do not know any species of which the one now described can with reason be considered as a variety; the two specimens in the Museum are very uniform in their general appearance.

It may be observed that some species, both of Mammalia and Birds, are so much alike in external appearance, that, judging from their skins alone, we might be inclined to doubt whether they were more than slight varieties; yet when their habits, modes of life, food, and manners are known, they are far more distinct, as species, than animals which are very different in their external appearance, and marked with what might *a priori* be considered very striking characters.

SCIURUS SIAMENSIS, sp. nov.

Bright red-brown, grizzled with elongate black tips to the longer hairs, each of which is marked with a broad subterminal yellow band. These black hairs are more abundant, and have broad pale rings on the rump outside of the thighs, and especially on the lower part of the tail, where they nearly hide the general red colour. The terminal half of the tail bright chestnut-brown, without any black hairs or pale rings. The throat, breast, belly, lower part of sides, inner side and edge of the legs, uniform bright red-brown. Ears rounded. Whiskers black. Feet covered with short close-pressed hairs.

Hab. Siam (*M. Mouhot*).

2. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FRESHWATER TORTOISE FROM SIAM. BY DR. J. EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

(Reptilia, Pl. XXI.)

The British Museum has received from M. Mouhot, with some other Reptiles, two specimens of a Freshwater Tortoise, which are



C.H. Ford

GEOCLEMMYS MACROCEPHALA

W. West imp.

decidedly different from any I have before seen. They have somewhat the external appearance, both in shape and markings of the head, of some specimens of *Cistudo amboinensis*, but belong to the genus *Emys*, or rather *Geoclemys*, and not to *Cistudo*.

They are referable to the first division of genus which has the back of the shell three-keeled, and, like the other species of that section, come from Asia.

1. GEOCLEMYS MACROCEPHALA.

The shell oblong, rather depressed, entire, three-keeled, olive-brown; the keels subcontinued, nearly parallel, the middle one higher and more distinct behind; the lateral ones, near the upper edge of the shields, continued, ending abruptly on the hinder edge of the third lateral discal shield; the hinder lateral and central shield only marked with a slight convexity; the margin entire, yellow-edged. The under side yellow, with black triangular spots; the sternum flat, very indistinctly keeled on the side.

Animal blackish-olive. Head large; crown flat, covered with single smooth plate, purplish-brown, with two streaks from middle of the nose, the upper edging the crown, the other the upper part of the beak, and with two streaks from the hinder edge of the orbit, the lower short and interrupted, extended on the temple, the upper broader and continued over the ear along the side of the neck; two close streaks under the nostrils to the middle of the upper jaw, and two broad streaks, dilated behind, down the front of the lower jaw, and continued on the edge of the lower jaw behind; the nape and hinder part of the side of the lower jaw covered with large flat scales; the rest of the neck and legs covered with minute granular scales; the front of the fore-legs covered with broad band-like scales; the toes of the fore- and hind-feet rather short and thick, covered above with broad band-like scales.

Hab. Siam.

The front vertebral plate is quadrangular, the front edge wider, rounded; second, third, and fourth ventral shields six-sided, the second longer than broad, the fourth broader than long; the three hinder sides are longest, the fifth vertebral shield subquadrangular, the front sides being very narrow, and the hinder side very broad and slightly truncated.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SOME NEW GENERA OF LITHOPHYTES, OR STONY ZOOPHYTES. BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

The Corals were formerly divided into three genera, according to the nature of their axes; viz. *Corallium* with continuous stony, *Isis* with jointed stony, and *Gorgonia* with horny axes; but many of the corals which had stony axes were referred to the last genus.

Lamouroux, in his work on 'Flexible Corals,' divided the genus