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SOLD AT THEIR HOUSE IN HANOVER SQUARE,
AND BY MESSRS. LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

3. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF TORTOISE (*TESTUDO PLANICEPS*), FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.
 BY J. E. GRAY, PH.D., F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., P.B.S. ETC.

After the examination of the specimens of the large Black Tortoise (*Testudo Indica*) in the various English and continental collections, including the specimens which had served Schweiger, Schlegel, Fitzinger, Dumeril and Bibron, and others, as the types of species, I placed them all in the 'Catalogue of the Tortoises, Crocodiles and Amphisbænians in the Collection of the British Museum,' as varieties of a single, very variable species, which had been scattered by man in different tropical parts of the globe. I see no cause to change my opinion with respect to the head now about to be described, even should it prove to be that of a black species, which is possible, as the black species is the only one known which has any affinity to it in point of size. The skull now described was sent to Haslar Hospital, and said to have been taken from a specimen brought from the Galapagos Islands. The Black Tortoise of those islands has been described by Dr. Harlan under the name of *Testudo elephantopus*; but his figure and description so exactly agree with the adult *Testudo Indica*, and the specimen in the Gardens of the Zoological Society brought from the Galapagos Islands, is so exactly similar to the specimen of *Testudo Indica* from the Mauritius, that I cannot think that the usual Galapagos Tortoise is different from that species, or like the skull here noticed. I therefore propose to designate this species by the provisional name of *Testudo planiceps*. The following comparative statement of the characters presented by this skull and that of *T. Indica*, will show the differences which exist between them.

TESTUDO INDICA.	TESTUDO PLANICEPS.
Skull high, convex.	Skull much-depressed, flat.
Forehead convex, rounded to the nose-cavity; broad between the eyes.	Forehead flat, with a rapid declivity towards the nose-cavity; narrow between the eyes.
Temples flat behind.	Temples produced, bent in behind.
Cheeks small, four-sided.	Cheeks large, subtrigonal.
Edge of the jaw between the nose-cavity and the mouth narrow and rounded.	Edge of the jaw between the nose-cavity and the mouth high and erect.
Nose-cavity oblong, nearly twice as high as broad, contracted on each side above.	Nose-cavity nearly square, scarcely higher than broad, and very little contracted above.
Palate broad, oblong, very deeply concave, and with concave converging sides in front.	Palate narrow, nearly lozenge-shaped, truncated behind, rather deeply concave, with straight converging sides in front.

TESTUDO INDICA.

Sphenoid bone deeply concave beneath, under the condyle.
Lower jaw narrowed and rounded in front, not more than half as high as behind.

TESTUDO PLANICEPS.

Sphenoid bone flat beneath, under the condyle.
Lower jaw convex and erect in front, and as high as behind.

These descriptions are taken from skulls of nearly the same size, as proved by the following measurements:—

	<i>Testudo Indica.</i>	<i>Testudo planiceps.</i>
Length from condyle to front of lip	$5\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{1}{8}$
— from occipital crest to nose-cavity	$5\frac{2}{8}$	$5\frac{6}{8}$
— of palate concavity	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{6}{8}$
Width at condyles	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$
— at ends of temporal bones	$4\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{7}{8}$
— of palate concavity in middle	$1\frac{3}{8}$	1
— between orbits	2	$1\frac{2}{8}$
Height from back of upper lip to top of head	$2\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{6}{8}$
— of front of lower jaw	$\frac{5}{8}$	1
Length of nasal opening	2	$1\frac{1}{16}$

January 25, 1853.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A portion of a letter from Mr. Louis Fraser, H.M. Consul at Whidah, was read, in which the writer mentioned that he had received accounts of the occurrence of a large Ape in the vicinity of Fernando Po. He says it has only been brought down to the colony on two or three occasions. The natives call it *Tap-par-po-har*, and suppose it to be a Chimpanzee; but from the description they give of it, he thinks it must be a *Cynocephalus*. The people say it is as large as a man, that it has a long head and a *very* short tail, and that it barks like a dog. He adds that there are curious tales current about the animal, which he will endeavour to collect.

The following papers were also read:—

1. DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW BIRDS, FROM FERNANDO PO.
BY LOUIS FRASER.

BUBO POENSIS, Fraser.

Brownish yellow, each feather barred with brown, the brown predominating on the crown, shoulders and middle of the back; tail