

chants, who buy all the skins of the silver-grey rabbits, and export them to *Russia* and *China*; these skins realize a very high price, some of them 36s. per dozen, in this country.

With reference to the origin of the light-coloured silver-grey or Chinchilla rabbit, I am only able to say they came from the Continent to this country, being met with in the South of France and Belgium, but, as far as I am aware, always in a state of domestication. Observing that we receive large quantities of the skins of these white rabbits, and that the skins of the silver-grey rabbits are sold to the Russians and Chinese at a large price, I am led to think (from the experiments that I have tried) it highly probable that at some period the silver-grey rabbit existed in *Russia* or *Asia* (and hence the taste or fashion for their skins), and that this breed has been lost and replaced by the white variety whose skins we now receive in such abundance—finding, as I have before remarked, that these have a strong tendency to out-number the *greys*.

In conclusion, it is deserving of remark that, in all instances, the young of the silver-greys are quite black for the first five or six weeks, at about this age the grey hairs beginning to make their appearance on the breast and sides; while the young of the Himalayan or black-footed kind are always perfectly white until they are five or six weeks old, at which time the black hairs begin to appear on their noses, feet, ears, and tails.

3. DESCRIPTION OF A SOFT TORTOISE FROM CAMBOJA. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

(Plate V.)

I have only been able to observe this *Trionyx* in its young state; but I make no apology for describing it as a distinct kind, as I find from experience that the colouring of the young animal of this family of Tortoises affords one of the best characters for the distinction of the species; and I believe it is from their not having been studied in that state that the species have been hitherto confounded together. The character thus afforded has the advantage of not being liable to variation from development, as is the case with the comparative length of the free part of the ribs and with the form of the sternal callosities, which have been hitherto chiefly depended on for specific characters.

TRIONYX ORNATUS. (Pl. V.)

Back of the young animal, in spirits, brown, with large, unequal-sized, irregularly disposed black circular spots. Head olive, with symmetrical small black spots on the chin, forehead, and nose. Throat and sides of neck with large, unequal-sized, irregular-shaped and nearly symmetrically disposed yellow spots. Legs olive, yellow-spotted in front. Sternum and under side of margin yellow. Sternal callosities not developed.

Hab. Camboja (*M. Mouhot*).

This species is most like the young of *T. gangeticus*; but the dorsal spots are solid, not annular; and the head is olive, dotted with black.

It has some affinity to *Trionyx tuberculatus* of Dr. Cantor from Chusan, which appears, from a drawing by Dr. Cantor in the Indian Museum at Fifehouse, to be distinct from any of the other Asiatic species that have occurred to me. That species has eight large and four small white-edged black spots, placed in pairs, on the dorsal disk, the throat with a dark streak on the middle of each side, the chin yellow, black-dotted. The lateral sternal callosities are large, oblong, and the posterior one round.

4. DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO SPECIES OF CRUSTACEA BELONGING TO THE FAMILIES CALLIANASSIDÆ AND SQUILLIDÆ. BY ADAM WHITE, ASSISTANT ZOOL. DEP. BRIT. MUSEUM.

(Plates VI. and VII.)

The *Callianassa* here described is from the Camaroons River, W. Africa, whence it was brought by the captain of an African trader to J. Aspinall Turner, Esq., M.P., the well-known possessor of a very fine collection of African insects. Mr. Turner liberally presented it to the Museum, with the information, that this long-bodied Crustacean appears periodically in the river in prodigious numbers, which disappear in the course of ten days or a fortnight. The natives are very fond of them, as they are delicious eating; and as soon as they make their appearance in the river, the men leave their usual pursuits to catch them.

Genus CALLIANASSA, Leach.

CALLIANASSA TURNERANA, n. s. (Pl. VI.)

C. processu rostrali breviter trispinoso; digito superiore obtuso, intus quadridentato; abdominis segmentis tertio quarto quintoque plagis duabus pellucidis, pilis densis brunneis postice obsitis.

Long. unc. $6\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. Africa occ. (Camaroons).

Moveable finger of the large claw blunt at the end, the back gradually curved, the base with three or four small tubercles arranged longitudinally, and with indications of another row; the inner edge has four teeth, the two largest near the base, united so as to form one large lobe with another tubercle inside. There is a considerable space left between the moveable finger and the fixed one; the edge of the latter is toothless, but is hollowed on the inside and at the base, where it is covered with closely placed rounded tubercles; the immoveable finger is not much arched, and is pointed. The outside and greater part of the inside of the claw are very smooth, the lower edge being fringed with long and rather coarse hairs, which are arranged in tufts, as they are also, in a double row, on the upper edge of the moveable finger. There are, besides, four rows of distant tufts

