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ZOOLOGY  
OF  
NEW HOLLAND.







ZOOLOGY  
OF  
NEW HOLLAND,

BY  
GEORGE SHAW, M. D. F. R. S.  
&c. &c.



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THE FIGURES BY  
JAMES SOWERBY, F. L. S.

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PSITTACUS EXIMIUS.

THE NONPAREIL PARROT.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* aduncum: mandibula superiore mobili; cera instructa.

*Nares* in rostri basi.

*Lingua* carnosâ, obtusa, integra.

*Pedes* scanforii.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 139.*

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CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

*Psittacus macrourus* varius, capite gula pectore criffoque coccineis, dorso nigro flavo-viridi undulato, alis caudaque cœruleis.

*Rostrum pallidum. Pedes nigricantes. Rectrices duæ intermediæ virides.*

PSITTACUS EXIMIUS.—*Vivarium Naturæ. Tab. 93.*





GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* hooked. Upper mandible moveable.  
*Nostrils* roundish, placed in the base of the bill.  
*Tongue* fleshy, broad, blunt at the end.  
*Legs* short. Toes formed for climbing, *viz.* two forward and two backward.

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SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Long-tailed variegated Parrot, with head, throat, breast and vent crimson; back black undulated with yellow-green, blue wings and tail.

*The two middle tail-feathers are green.*

NONPAREIL PARROT.—*Naturalist's Miscellany*. Pl. 93.

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THE vast Island or rather Continent of Australia, Australasia, or New Holland, which has so lately attracted the particular attention of European navigators and naturalists, seems to abound in scenes of peculiar wildness and sterility; while the wretched natives of many of those dreary districts seem less elevated above the inferior animals than in any other part of the known world; Caffraria itself not excepted; as well as less endowed

duced with the power of promoting a comfortable existence by an approach towards useful arts and industry.

It is in these savage regions however that Nature seems to have poured forth many of her most highly ornamented products with unusual liberality : where, in particular, she appears to have stationed birds, superior perhaps in elegance to those of most other climes ; and which display their richly-varied plumage in scenes unknown to mankind in a civilised state, and where their beauties can only be contemplated by the eyes of barbarians.

Amidst the number of these admired animals, the species represented on the annexed plate may justly claim a distinguished place. It may indeed be doubted whether any bird can exhibit a plumage more elegant, or colours of a nobler hue. These are so accurately expressed on the plate, as well as mentioned in the specific character, that it becomes unnecessary to particularise them here. It therefore remains only to add, that the size of this species is equal to that of the Pennantian, or Splendid Parrot, to which it is also nearly allied in shape and general disposition of colours.











*Didelphis pygmaea* (Linn.)

*Didelphis pygmaea*

*DIDELPHIS PYGMÆA.*  
 THE PYGMY OPOSSUM.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Folliculus* abdominalis mammarum.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Didelphis hypochondriis prolaxis volitans, cauda plano-*  
*pinnata lineari.*



GENERIC CHARACTER.

An abdominal *Pouch*, or *Follicle*, in which the mammæ  
 are situated, and which serves as a temporary residence  
 for the young.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Opoffum with lateral flying membrane, and flatly-  
 pinnated linear tail.



AMONGST the most curious quadrupeds yet discovered in the Antarctic regions, may be numbered the animal represented on the present plate; which (exclusive of its diminutive size, not exceeding that of a common domestic mouse) forms as it were a kind of connecting link between the genera of Didelphis and Sciurus, or Opossum and Squirrel. In the genus Sciurus we meet with a certain number of species which are furnished with an expansive skin on each side the body, by the assistance of which they are enabled to spring to a considerable distance, and to dart from tree to tree in a more rapid manner than the rest of their congeners. These particular kinds of Squirrels have been sometimes called *Petauristæ* or *Petauri*; and in the description of a New Holland animal of this tribe, figured in the NATURALIST'S MISCELLANY, I have taken the liberty of instituting a distinct genus for such species under the name of PETAURUS; disassociating them, on account of the very striking particularity of the lateral membrane, from the rest of the Squirrel tribe. It follows, therefore, that on similar principles the small flying opossum here represented should form a distinct genus also, and be separated from the other opossums. In the present instance, however, I have not disassociated this species from the other Didelphides; and as it is probably by far the most diminutive of the tribe, have distinguished it by a title expressive of its smallness. The opening of the abdominal pouch in this species is of a semilunar form, as expressed in the outlined



lined figure in the corner of the plate. On laying open by incision this receptacle, I found on each side a young one in the situation represented in the sketch, and very large in proportion to the parent animal: they were totally destitute of hair, and consequently had not approached to the period of their second birth. I should observe, that in such specimens as were not in a pregnant state, the mammæ appeared extremely small, and were only four in number. The tongue in this animal is remarkably large and long, and of a flattened form. The hind feet (as in most other opossums) furnished with a round mutic or unarmed thumb or interior toe, and the two adjoining interior toes united (as in several other Australasian quadrupeds) under one common skin.









*Ptilinopus terrestris*



*PSITTACUS TERRESTRIS.*  
 THE GROUND PARROT.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* aduncum: mandibula superiore mobili; cera  
 instructa.

*Nares* in rostri basi.

*Lingua* carnosae, obtusa, integra.

*Pedes* scanforii.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 139.*

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CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

*Psittacus macrourus* viridis, nigro flavoque maculatus,  
 capistro rubro, cauda flava fasciis numerosis nigris.

*PSITTACUS TERRESTRIS.*

*Museum Leverianum, p. 217. tab. 53.*

*PSITTACUS FORMOSUS.*—*Latb. ind. orn. p. 103.*



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* hooked. Upper mandible moveable.  
*Nostrils* round, placed in the base of the bill.  
*Tongue* fleshy, broad, blunt at the end.  
*Legs* short. Toes formed for climbing; viz. two toes forward, and two backward.

## SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &amp;c.

Long-tailed green Parrot, spotted with black and yellow; the frontlet red; the tail yellow with numerous black bars.

## THE GROUND PARROT.

*Museum Leverianum*, p. 219. pl. 53.

THE very elegant figure of this bird in the 5th Number of the *Museum Leverianum*, representing it in a posture in which some of its marks are less strikingly conspicuous, we have endeavoured in the present plate to exhibit its peculiar characters to the greatest advantage by a more expanded attitude of the wings and tail. With respect to its manners we can only repeat what has been



faid in the work above referred to: viz. that it differs from all the rest of its tribe in never perching on trees, but constantly frequenting low and sedgy places, running along the ground in the manner of a rail. The legs and feet are uncommonly thin and delicate, and the claw on one of the back toes lengthened out, so as to resemble in some degree that of a lark. The size of this species is nearly that of a turtle.











## MEROPS PHRYGIUS.

## THE EMBROIDERED MEROPS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* curvatum, compressum, carinatum.

*Lingua* apice laciniata.

*Pedes* gressorii.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 182.*

---

 CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Merops niger*, flavo varius.



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* curved, compressed, carinated, and sharp-pointed.

*Tongue* (generally) laciniated at the tip.

*Feet* gressorial, *i. e.* three toes forward and one backward;

and the three lower joints of the middle toe closely joined to those of the outmost.

---

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Black Merops varied with yellow.

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---

THE bird figured in its natural size on the present plate is a species of Merops, or Bee-Eater; a tribe which appears to be peculiarly prevalent in the extensive regions of Australia, since more birds of this genus have been discovered than of any other, except the very numerous one of *Pfittacus*.

This species is readily distinguished by its remarkable colour from every other kind of Merops yet known. In its particular habits and manner of life it probably resembles the rest of its congeners; feeding chiefly on insects.





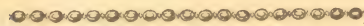


*Columba Antarctica*



## COLUMBA ANTARCTICA.

## THE ANTARCTIC PIGEON.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* rectum, versus apicem descendens.

*Nares* oblongæ, membrana molli tumida semitectæ.

*Lingua* integra. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 279.*

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Columba plumbeo-grifea*, subtus pallidior, occipite crista dependente ferruginea, remigibus caudaque nigricantibus, rectricibus fascia pallida.



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* weak, slender, strait at the base, with a soft protuberance in which the nostrils are lodged.

*Tongue* entire.

*Legs* short: toes divided to the origin.

## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

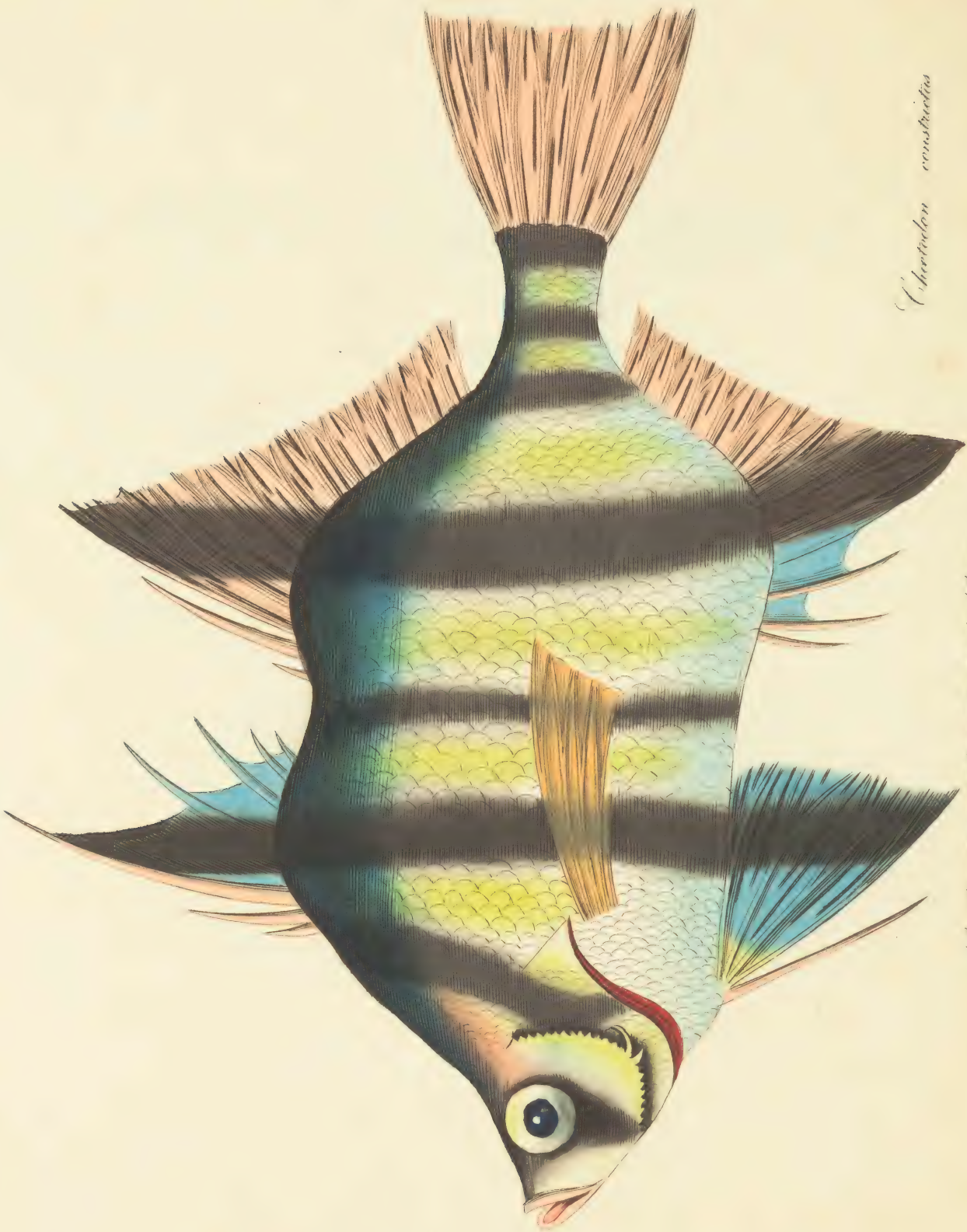
Greyish-lead-coloured Pigeon, paler beneath, with the wings and tail blackish; the latter marked by a pale bar.

---

THE Pigeon here represented appears to be a species hitherto undescribed. In size it nearly equals the *Columba Palumbus*, or common Wood-pigeon. Its most distinguishing character is the elegant semi-pendent occipital crest; a particular not often observable in birds of this genus.







*Cheilodactylus constrictus*

London: Printed by R. D. No. 1, Strand, 1841.



## CHÆTODON CONSTRICTUS.

## THE CONSTRICTED CHÆTODON.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Caput*: *Dentes* setacei, flexiles, confertissimi, numerosissimi.

*Membr. branch.* radiis sex.

*Corpus* pictum. *Pinna* dorfi anique carnosâ squamosa.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 460.*



## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

Chætodon corpore medio constricto.

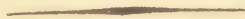


## GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Teeth* (in most species) setaceous, flexible, very numerous.

*Branchiostegous membrane* with six rays.

*Body* commonly marked with bands.



## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Chætodon with the body constricted in the middle.

---

THE numerous genus Chætodon contains some species which, on account of their very near alliance in point of general appearance, are not easily discriminated from each other. The present species, however, differs so conspicuously from all others yet discovered, as to cause no difficulty in distinguishing it, even on the most transient view; the body contracting in diameter in a most singular manner in the middle. It is therefore from this circumstance that the specific character is taken.

It may, perhaps, be proper to add, that the Linnæan characters of the genus Chætodon by no means apply with sufficient exactness to all the known species; some of which, instead of slender and almost setaceous teeth, are on the contrary furnished with uncommonly strong and broad ones.







*Testudo longirostris.*



*TESTUDO LONGICOLLIS.*

## THE LONG-NECKED TORTOISE.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Corpus* tetrapodum, caudatum, testa obtectum.

Os mandibulis nudis, edentulis.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 350.*



## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

Testudo ovata glabra, collo longissimo.



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed, covered with a shell. Mouth consisting of naked toothless mandibles.



## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Smooth ovate Tortoise with extremely long neck.

---

THE Tortoise here represented is a species never before figured or described. The plate expresses the natural size of the specimen from which the figure was taken. Its colour on the upper parts is a deep olivaceous brown. The shell is nearly smooth, but in some parts bears a resemblance to the grain of common black leather. The head is smooth. The neck extremely long, and (as it should seem) always exerted: its upper surface is marked with oval granulations, which give it an extremely serpentine appearance. The fore feet are short and tetradactylous; softly scaled, and, as it were, pinnated by a continuation of skin. The hind feet are of a similar structure, but somewhat longer and more widely pinnated. The claws on all the feet resemble those of birds. The under surface of the animal is of a pale whitish yellow; that of the shell more deeply so, and stained at all the junctures with black-brown, so as to form so many crossings of that colour. The tail is so extremely short as scarce to deserve the name, being merely a slight prolongation, or rather rising of the skin.







*Cancer serratus*



## CANCER SERRATUS.

## THE SERRATED LOBSTER.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Pedes* octo (rarius sex aut decem); insuper manus duæ  
chelatæ.

*Palpi* sex inæquales.

*Oculi* duo distantes, plurimis pedunculati; elongati, mo-  
biles.

*Mandibula* cornea, crassa.

*Labium* triplex.

*Cauda* articulata, inermis.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* GMEL. p. 2963.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Cancer macrourus*, chelis ferratis, cauda utrinque trifa-  
riam muricato-spinosa.



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Feet* commonly eight (in some species six or ten), besides two chelæ.

*Palpi* or feelers six, unequal.

*Eyes* two, distant, in most species footstalked; elongated, moveable.

*Mandible* thick.

*Lip* triple.

*Tail* articulated, unarmed.

---

 SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Elongated Cancer with ferrated chelæ, and tail muricated on each side by a triple row of sharp protuberances.

---

THIS curious animal is about the size of the common lobster. The antennæ, as in that species, are smooth and setaceous. The four smaller ones (which are united at the base) are about an inch and half long. The thorax is smooth on the upper part, but on the ridge of the sides is very strongly muricated with moderately distant and extremely stout spines, some of which are so short and obtuse as to be rather tubercles than spines.



The chelæ or large claws, which in this species are pretty exactly equal, are ferrated on the edges by a double series of sharpened protuberances. The legs are also ferrated proportionally in the same manner. The tail (which forms the principal specific character) is most strongly muricated on each side with a treble row of large, pointed tubercles, between which are disposed here and there a few smaller ones, so as to invade a little the exact series in which the principal ones are disposed. The colour of this animal (so far as can be collected from the specimens preserved in spirits) is mostly red, or like that of a boiled lobster; but blue on the sides of the claws and some other parts.

Its place in the genus should be next to the Cancer Homarus, to which it is most allied, though differing widely as a species.







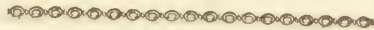


*Turdus punctatus.*  
Published by J. Hancock, 1794.



*TURDUS PUNCTATUS.*

THE SPOTTED-SHOULDERED THRUSH.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* tereti-cultratum : mandibula superiore apice  
deflexo, emarginato.

*Nares* nudæ, superne membranula semitectæ.

*Faux* ciliata.

*Lingua* lacero-emarginata.

---

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Turdus* griseus, pectore plumbeo, humeris nigris albo  
punctatis.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Bill* strait, obtusely carinated at top, bending a little at  
the point, and slightly notched near the end of the  
upper mandible.

*Nostrils* oval and naked.

*Tongue* flightly jagged at the end.

*Middle Toe* connected to the outer as far as the first joint.

---

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Greyish-brown Thrush dashed with blackish; with lead-coloured throat, and black shoulders speckled with white.

---

THE species of Thrush here represented is figured in its natural size, and is probably the male bird. The supposed female differs in having the shoulders of a greyish colour, minutely speckled with black and white. It also wants the black band on each side the throat, as well as the transverse one at the bottom of the breast. The patches on the sides of the neck are likewise of a pale yellow. In other respects it resembles the male.







*Coluber Porphyriacus.*

*W. G. B. 1825.*



## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Violet-black Snake, with the abdomen and sides crimson; the scuta margined with black.

*Abdominal Scuta* 188. *Anal.* 7. *Subcaudal Scales* 45.

---

THIS beautiful Snake, which appears to be unprovided with tubular teeth or fangs, and consequently not of a poisonous nature, is about three, and sometimes four feet in length. Its colour on the upper parts is a glossy violet-black; the sides of an elegant deep crimson, which on the abdomen declines into a paler tinge, or more approaching to whitish; while the scuta or broad semi-circular scales which compose this part, are each deeply bordered with black. The alternate scales or divided scuta beneath the tail are of a lead-colour, and the largest series of the crimson side-scales are tipped with black; which gives them an appearance peculiarly elegant. This Snake may be considered as a species hitherto undescribed.







*Sciurus aureus*

Willmott & Co. Scoville, Sept. 1, 1871

*DIDELPHIS SCIUREA.*

## THE SQUIRREL OPOSSUM.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Folliculus abdominalis mammarum.



## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Didelphis hypochondriis prolaxis volitans, supra cana, subtus nivea, cauda villosissima prehensili, apicem versus nigra.*



## GENERIC CHARACTER.

An abdominal *pouch* or *follicle* in which the mammæ are situated, and which serves as a temporary residence for the young.





## SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Grey Opossum, snow-white beneath, with lateral flying membrane and extremely villous prehensile tail, black towards the extremity.

---

IN its general aspect this animal has so much the appearance of a squirrel, that on a cursory view it might readily pass for such. A more exact inspection into its characters will however evince it to be a genuine Opossum. Its size is nearly that of a common squirrel, but on account of the fulness and particular growth of the fur (which, like that of the Lemur, grows in a sub-erect manner), it appears somewhat larger. Its general colour is exactly that of the *Sciurus cinereus* or American Grey Squirrel. A black stripe passes over each eye along the top of the head: under each ear is a black patch surrounded with white; the hair on the white part having a more soft or flocculent appearance than the black. The tail (which is prehensile) is of the same colour with the body for about half its length, the remainder being black. It is very full of hair, and tapers a little towards the extremity, but without any acute termination. The eyes are black, round, and full. The ears round, shortish, and very thin. The whole under side of the animal is milk-white. The upper parts of

the feet are also white, and the edge of the lateral or flying membrane, which extends from the fore feet to the hind, is edged with a blackish border as in the flying squirrels. The abdominal pouch is of considerable size, and is situated, as in other opossums, on the lower part of the abdomen. The hind feet are furnished with a rounded, unarmed, or mutic thumb. Nothing can exceed the softness and delicacy of this animal's fur, which is, if possible, still finer than that of the *Petaurus* of New Holland described in the Naturalist's Miscellany, and to which indeed, though very greatly inferior in size, as well as widely differing in colour, it bears a striking affinity. I must also add, that I have great reason for supposing the *Petaurus* to be furnished with an abdominal pouch; a particular which I have not yet been able to ascertain; no living specimens having been yet imported. The Opossum now described is a nocturnal animal, and continues torpid during the greatest part of the day, but during the night is full of activity. In this, as well as in other Australian Didelphides, the two toes on the hind feet nearest the thumb or rounded one, are connate, or both conjoined under one common skin. The plate represents it nearly in its natural size.











*Diplophis macroura*  
Des. par le Citoyen de Montb. Nov. 1794



*D I D E L P H I S   M A C R O U R A .*  
 THE LONG-TAILED OPOSSUM.



CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*Didelphis hypochondriis prolaxis volitans, supra cinerea,  
 subtus albida, cauda longissima attenuata nigra.*



SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ash-coloured Opossum, whitish beneath, with lateral flying membrane and very long slender black tail.

---

THIS also is one of those species which are furnished with an expansive lateral membrane. It is principally distinguished by the length of its tail, and is represented in its natural size. In the structure of the feet it perfectly agrees with the other Australian Opossums; the two interior toes of the hind feet being united under one common skin.









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