NOTE XXX.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF HYRAX (HYRAX STAMPFLII) FROM LIBERIA.

BY

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In the P. Z. S. L. of the year 1852, p. 99, we find a description of a new Hyrax from Fernando-Po by Fraser. This new species, Hyrax dorsalis, is rather insufficiently described and the figures (Plate XXXIII) have no value at all. In the following year, 1853, Temminck published his "Esquisses Zoologiques sur la Côte de Guinée" and described a new species of Hyrax, H. sylvestris; Temminck was evidently not acquainted with Fraser's Hyrax, he only knew Hyrax syriacus, capensis and arboreus. Now I am convinced that Temminck's species is the same as Fraser's and although Temminck's description is very extensive and clear, meanwhile this cannot be said of that of Fraser, the latter having the priority of some months, the species in question ought to be called H. dorsalis.

In Temminck's paper however is a mistake born by the fact that he had not a skull of an adult specimen. So he writes: "le nombre des molaires aux deux mâchoires est de six dans sylvestris; dans arboreus, ainsi que chez les autres espèces, l'état normal est de sept partout." I have removed the skull of an adult specimen, one of Temminck's
types, and this skull shows seven molars in each jaw like in fullgrown specimens of the other species, arboreus, syriacus and capensis.

Dr. Gray (Catalogue of Carnivorous, Pachydermatous and Edentate Mammalia, 1869, p. 281) said that Dr. G. v. Jaeger figured the interparietal of a species sent from West Africa by Mr. Dieterle, which he (Jaeger) names H. sylvestris, and (l. c. p. 284) that Dr. v. Jaeger called a species, collected in West Africa, Hyrax sylvestris, that it may be a new species of the genus Dendrohyrax, and that Dr. Jaeger described it in the Würzb. naturw. Jahresb. XVI. p. 162, t. 2, f. 15.

Now I must remark that a journal with such a title does not exist at all, but I find in the Jahreshefte des Vereins für väterländische Naturkunde in Württemberg, 1860, p. 168, in a paper by Dr. v. Jaeger: »Mit der Be- schaffenheit der Milchzähne und Ersatzzähne bei H. capensis kommt nach Wagner die bei H. sylvestris Temminck stattfindende nicht überein, indem die Zahl der Milchback- zähne nur 3, die der Ersatzzähne nur 6 betragen soll." Von Jaeger therefore has not given the name sylvestris to this species, but only quoted the species described by Temminck.

Mr. Stampfli procured a Hyrax in Liberia; it was pre- served in spirits and now it is mounted and its skeleton has been removed. As I saw it in spirits I thought that it was a Hyrax dorsalis Fraser (Hyrax sylvestris Temminck), but at present I see that it belongs to a hitherto not des- cribed species and I propose to name it Hyrax stampflii. It belongs to the group of Hyraces called Dendrohyrax, characterized by having a white 1) dorsal spot and an

1) Dr. Gray (Catalogue, p. 292) states that Dendrohyrax dorsalis has the dorsal spot elongate, pure white, that (l. c. p. 293) Dendrohyrax ar- boreus has a central white dorsal streak, but that (l. c. p. 293) the young specimen of D. arboreus is at once known from the young of D. dorsalis by the want of the dark dorsal streak! Who can here find out Dr. Gray's lapsus calami?

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elongate diastema (distance between incisor and first pre-molar of the lower jaw). To this section belong also Hyrax arboreus Smith and Hyrax dorsalis Fraser. Hyrax arboreus has a hairy nose; body with soft reddish fulvous fur, underside of body white. Hyrax dorsalis has the upper half of the nose hairy; body with long rather rigid rich golden reddish brown fur, underside of body bright brown. Hyrax stampflii has a bare nose; body with short not rigid black hairs, underside of body brown.

_Hyrax stampflii, n. sp._

*Description of an adult female, the type of the species:* Size and shape of a fullgrown Hyrax dorsalis. The fur is nearly as soft as that of Hyrax arboreus: on the back the hairs are black, with a purplish tinge, browner on head, sides of body and extremities, brown on the belly: on the back the hairs are entirely black, but among them are some others with a purplish tip: the hairs of the other parts are black but always tipped with purplish brown on head, sides of body and extremities, with large brown tips on the belly. Nose up to a line drawn between the fore corner of the eyes and also a circle round the eyes bare. The spot on the back is a small and elongate white streak: each hair black to the base with a very large white tip. The hairs forming this streak on the back are very long, meanwhile the other hairs are rather short, much shorter than in the other Dendrohyrax-species.

The skeleton presents 7 cervicales, 20 costales, 9 lumbares, 5 sacrales and 8 caudales.

_Dentition:_ I. $\frac{1-1}{2-2}$, 1) C. 0, P. $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$, M. $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$. Upper

1) Dr. Gray (l. c. p. 291) relates that the canine of the adult series is trigonal, with the keel in front as in the true Hyraxes. This clearly is a mistake, for there is no Hyrax known with canines; the upper incisors are canine-like.

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incisors rounded in front; at a small distance from the back edge of the upper incisors there is on each side a small hole, indicating the second (deciduous) upper incisor: lower incisors trilobed, separated into pairs. The upper grinders in nearly parallel series, the lower ones parallel. The skull presents many differences with that part of the skeleton of *Hyrax dorsalis*, better to demonstrate by figures than by long descriptions: I hope to give some figures of this skull in the *Catalogue ostéologique du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle* now in the press, and to exhibit the anomalous form of the interparietal, the form of *foramen magnum*, of the coronoid process¹) and of the angle of the lower jaw.

*Hab.* Liberia, Junkriver, Schieffelinsville. Collected by Mr. F. X. Stampfli, 3rd February 1886. It has been captured in a cavern of a very high rock, called Chap-hill, opposite Schieffelinsville.

¹) I express my thanks to Mr. Oldfield Thomas of the British Museum, who made for me a drawing of the coronoid process of the skull of the type-specimen of *Hyrax dorsalis* Fraser. This skull has been figured in Gray's *Hand-list of the Edentate, Thick-Skinned and Ruminant Mammals*, 1873, pl. XIII, fig. 1, but in that figure the part in question is concealed by the zygoma.