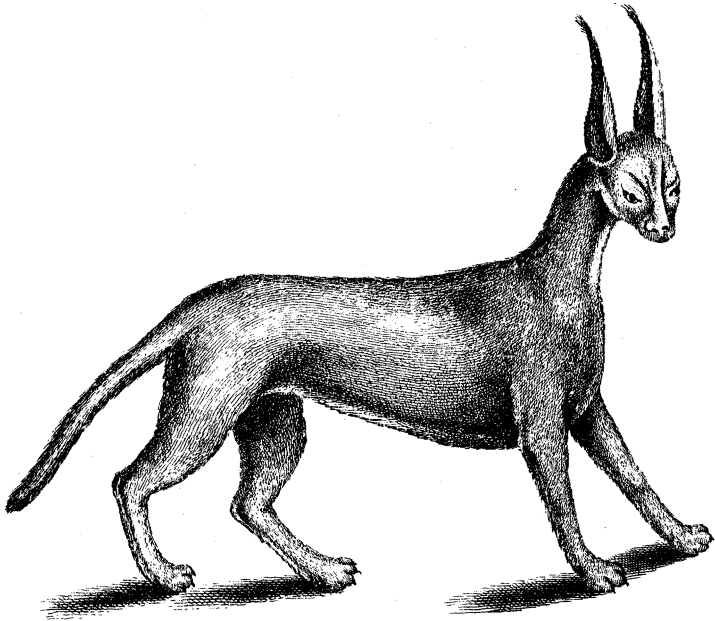


- 1892 *Solidago paniculata*, racemis recurvatis, floribus erectis, foliis lanceolatis integerrimis glabris. Miller's Icons.
- 1893 *Sorbus Sylvestris* foliis domesticæ fimilis. C. B. P. 415.
Sylvestris five *Fraxinus bubula*. Ger. 1290.
- 1894 *Styrax*; folio *Mali Cotonei*. C. B. 452. *Officin.* 473.
- 1895 *Thapsia montana omnium maxima*, foliis lobatis, umbellis luteis. Micheli Hort. Flor.
- 1896 *Tithymalus arboreus*. Alpini.
- 1897 *Tithymalus Cypariffias*. Alpini Exotic.
- 1898 *Veronica*; flosculis oblongis pediculis infidentibus, *Chamædryos* folio. Hist. Ox. 2. 322.
- 1899 *Viburnum Mathioli*. C. B. 429.
- 1900 *Vitex* foliis ternatis quinatisque pinnato incisifolius verticillatis terminalibus. Dict. Hort.

LIX. *Some Account of the Animal sent from the East Indies, by General Clive, to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, which is now in the Tower of London: In a Letter from James Parsons, M. D. F. R. S. to the Rev. Tho. Birch, D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society.*

Read March 27,
1760.

AT the request of the Reverend Dr. Littleton, dean of Exeter, I went to observe this creature, in order to find what class of animals he belonged to; and made the drawing,



Parsons M. ad vivum del. mart 25. 1760.

J. Mynde. Sc.

ing, now before the Royal Society, for its inspection. [See *Tab. XIV.*] I have endeavoured to make it as accurate as possible in all its proportion; yet am afraid I have made the ears a small matter too long. There is a figure of it in the London Magazine for December last, which has no resemblance at all to it, except in the ears, which the engraver, who drew it, has made to turn forwards, contrary to nature. However, the following description will, I believe, be the proper account of it.

It is something taller than the largest sized cat, being about fifteen inches high at the shoulders; slender and light, though strong. The head is small in proportion to the rest, and the neck slender. It has nothing fierce in its aspect, but is mild, and very tame. It is exactly of a fawn-colour, having its ears black on their outsides, and lined with white hairs, and some white round the root of each ear; it is also white under the throat and belly, and a little so on the backs of its limbs. Its eyes are small, and its head like that of a cat, but somewhat slenderer; its legs are genteel and strait, with the paws of a cat, having the power of dilating and contracting its toes, which are armed with strong crooked nails, in the same manner as a cat or tyger does; and its actions are like those of a cat. I sat and watched its motions, and saw it lick its foot, and rub it over its face several times, exactly like a cat; and was told by the man who shewed it me, that, if it is offended, it hisses. I examined its teeth, and find them in the same number and manner with those of a cat. And as to its food, they give it raw mutton every day; and when it is sick, which it often is, they give it a
live

live fowl, or rabbit, which it seizes eagerly, and lies upon it without motion, for a considerable time, to suck the blood, and this proves a certain cure. The figure shews it to have also a tail like that of a cat.

None of the natural historians have any account of this animal, that I have yet seen, except the learned Dr. Walter Charleton *, who has a bad figure of it, engraved at the expence of Dr. John Lawson, his cotemporary, of the college of physicians, as it appears in an inscription at the bottom of the plate, wherein the head is, contrary to truth, very large and strong in appearance, the tail like that of a fox, and the whole as strong as a mastiff dog: the name given it in the plate is the same with this, but differently spelled, thus, *Siyab-gbush*.

This author very justly ranks it among the cats, and has given such an account of this animal, as well deserves the notice of this learned Society, of which I have made the following English extract.

“ Among the wild cats, which vary according to
 “ the difference of climate, manner of living, and
 “ the like, none is more worthy of notice than that
 “ which is now kept in the park of our sovereign
 “ King Charles II. It was sent to the king by an
 “ English gentleman, who was governor of our mer-
 “ cantile affairs in the dominion of Surat, and is called,
 “ among other names, in the Persian language, *Siyab-*

* See his *Exercitationes de Differentiis et Nominibus Animalium*.

“ *ghush*, that is, *Black-ear* *, all along the coast of
 “ Coromandel, and indeed all over India. It is about
 “ the size of a fox, but like a cat in its form; and
 “ has the cunning and cruelty of a leopard, with
 “ the limbs of a cat, but longer and stronger; having
 “ so much strength, that I saw it kill a hound, that
 “ came in its way, in a moment. The legs are
 “ thick set with hair, and its nails concealed under
 “ them, which are never extended but upon seizing
 “ its prey, which is common to lions, panthers, and
 “ domestic cats. But what seems peculiar to this
 “ animal is, that, having jumped upon his prey, he
 “ lies upon it unmoved, holding his bite, as if he
 “ was dead, whether for joy, or in order to drink the
 “ blood of the creature. The great men in India
 “ have them bred up tame, because of their dex-
 “ terity in catching birds, hares, rabbits, and such-
 “ like; and such is their craft and fierceness, that
 “ they will seize even a fox; but their keepers will
 “ not suffer them to attack any thing above their
 “ strength, and therefore they only set them at cranes,
 “ geese, ducks, pheasants, partridges, peacocks, and
 “ such-like game, which they seize by many kinds
 “ of deceit, to the great pleasure of the spectators;
 “ and catch those timid animals, the hare, rabbit, fawn,
 “ goat, &c. by swift running, and sometimes by
 “ craft.

“ When they are sick (which, from over-gorging
 “ their stomachs, they often are) their keepers steep

* Dr. Charleton says, that he was obliged to his good friend the
 learned Dr. *Thomas Hyde*, then principal librarian to the Bodleian
 library, for this interpretation, who was well versed in the oriental
 languages.

“ a piece of tender meat in human urine, and feed
 “ them with it, and being bruised or tired by over-
 “ hunting, they give them some *Mummy*, wrapped up
 “ in their meat, and a warm place to rest in till they
 “ recover.”

It is said of this animal, that he follows the lion at a distance, in order to feed on what he leaves of the animals he destroys. To illustrate this, Dr. Charleton quotes a passage from the *Apolog.* of *Sheich Saadi*, which was written five hundred years before, and published in Persian and Latin by *Georgius Gentius*; which is in English as follows :

—This *Black-Ear* is asked, “ What makes him
 “ keep company with the lion, and seems so officious
 “ to please him ?” to which he answers, “ That I
 “ may feed on his leavings, and lead my life safely
 “ under his protection.” To which it is replied,
 “ Since you live under the shadow of his protection,
 “ and draw such benefit from him, why do not you
 “ approach nearer to him ?” He answers, “ If I took
 “ your counsel, and come near to him, I should not
 “ be safe from his fury a moment.”

Now from this particular account by the learned Charleton, and my own observations on him and his actions, I am inclined to rank this animal among the cats; and join with *Linnæus*, who, in his *Ordo secund.* has a fifth species of *Felis*, which agrees well with the principal characters of the animal before us: his words are,

“ *Felis cauda elongata, auribus*——
 “ ————— *penicilliformibus.*”