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5. On the Mammals of Asia Minor.—Part II. By CHARLES G. DANFORD, F.Z.S., and EDWARD R. ALSTON, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

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(Plate V.)

Three years ago we gave an account of the species of Mammals observed and collected by Danford during a visit to Asia Minor in the winter and spring of 1875-76, incorporating the statements of the few previous writers on the fauna of that country¹. The following pages contain the additional information which he obtained during another visit in the winter of 1878-79.

On this second expedition Danford spent most of his time in the extreme south-eastern provinces of Asia Minor. The principal stations where he collected were:—the island of Rhodes; the eastern Taurus Mountains near Marash; the valley of the river Pyramus or Jihan, in the provinces of Marash and Adana; the Giaour-Dagh, a northern continuation of the Lebanon range; and the valley of the river Euphrates, at Biledjik. Thence his route took him through part of the Palanga Plain near Albistan, and the Anti-Taurus Mountains, over the central tableland of Asia Minor by Kaisariyeh, Angora, Sivre-Hissar and Eski-Shehir, to Broussa, near the Sea of Marmora².

Although, as on his former trip, the time spent by Danford in the country was limited to the colder months, still we are able to add eleven species to our previous list, of which one appears to be new to science. We believe, on the other hand, that three species of our first catalogue were wrongly identified; and we now recognize forty-six species as being certainly represented in the fauna of Asia Minor, besides nine or ten others of which the occurrence, though recorded, is not fully authenticated. Much still remains to be done by future explorers, especially among the Bats, Insectivores, and Rodents.

As in our previous communication, the species of which specimens were brought home by Danford are marked with an asterisk; while those of which the evidence of occurrence seems doubtful are not numbered and are enclosed in brackets. References are given to our former paper, and the species which were not included in it are indicated by a dagger mark. The same authorities have been consulted as to distribution of the species in the adjoining countries.

We must express our thanks to our friends Dr. Günther and Mr. Thomas of the British Museum, where most of the specimens described have been deposited, and to Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards of Paris for assistance; also to Dr. Strauch of St. Petersburg, who has kindly given us much information as to the Wild Sheep of South-western Asia.

1. *VESPERUGO SEROTINUS (Schreb.). Danf. & Alst., no. 1.

¹ P. Z. S. 1877, pp. 270-281, pl. xxxi.

² A map, showing Danford's routes in his two expeditions, is given in his "Further Contribution to the Ornithology of Asia Minor," Ibis, 1880, p. 81, pl. ii.

2. *†VESPERUGO KUHLI (Natt.).

Specimens of Kuhl's Bat were taken at Marash from the wood-work of a house, and others were shot at Room Kaleb on the Euphrates. The species appeared to be common in both localities.

3. *CROCIDURA LEUCODON (Herm.). D. & A., no. 2.

4. ERINACEUS EUROPEUS, Linn. D. & A., no. 3.

As on his former visit, Danford failed to obtain specimens of the Asia-Minor Hedgehog in a fit state for preservation; but he found one or two decomposing carcasses which were evidently referable to this species.

[FELIS UNCIA, Schreb. D. & A., no. 4.

We introduced the Ounce into our first list on the authority of our friend Mr. D. G. Elliot, who informed us that the type of Valenciennes's *Felis tulliana*, now in the Paris Museum, was not separable from *F. uncia*, an opinion which had been already expressed by Blyth¹ and by Gray². Mr. Elliot has since maintained this identification in his magnificent work on this family³, whereas Prof. A. Milne-Edwards regards *F. tulliana* as a distinct species⁴. We regret that we did not ourselves examine the specimen when we were last in Paris; but on finding that the Leopards obtained by Danford on his second expedition were undoubtedly referable to *F. pardus*, we have been led to a more careful comparison of M. Milne-Edwards's detailed description with M. de Tchihatcheff's plate⁵. This examination leaves no doubt on our minds that Valenciennes's specimen is perfectly distinct from *F. uncia*; and we believe that it is really nothing but an unusually pale and long-haired variety of *F. pardus*, somewhat similar to the remarkable Persian Leopards now living in the Society's Gardens⁶. We therefore greatly regret that we should have been led to endorse the existence in Asia Minor of the true Ounce—an animal whose range is probably entirely confined to the most elevated regions of Central Asia⁷.]

5. *†FELIS PARDUS, Linn. *Kaplan*.

As already stated the only Leopards obtained by Danford belonged to this species; the specimens he preserved present considerable variety in coloration and in proportional length of tail, but not greater than has been observed in other localities. Though nowhere common, the *Kaplan* appears to be generally distributed throughout

¹ P. Z. S. 1863, p. 183.

² *Op. cit.* 1867, p. 232.

³ Monogr. Felidae, pt. 2.

⁴ Recherches Hist. Nat. Mamm. p. 214.

⁵ *Asie Mineure*, 2^me partie, Zool. pl. i.

⁶ *Cf.* P. Z. S. 1878, p. 289.

⁷ Since the above went to press we have received a letter from M. Milne-Edwards, in which he says "Le *Felis tulliana*, par les proportions de ses membres, se rapproche beaucoup plus des Panthères véritables que des Ounces; les taches de la robe sont plus grandes et plus annulaires, mais elles sont plus nombreuses que chez l'Ounce. Je suis persuadé que le *Felis tulliana* est une espèce, ou au moins une race fortement caractérisée, du Panthère." Impressed as we are with the great variability shown by many other of the Asia-Minor Mammals, we are still of the opinion expressed above.

Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1880

the south and south-western mountains near the coast. An adult female specimen, the skeleton of which is now in the British Museum, was procured in the Giaour Dagh near Osmanieh on the 20th Jan.; it measured in the flesh:—

	inches.
Length of head and body	59
Length of tail	37
Height at shoulder	26

6. *FELIS CATUS, Linn. *Yaban-keci*. D. & A., no. 5.

A Wild Cat from the mountains near Marash is strikingly different from the Zebil specimens described in our previous paper. Instead of being of an unusually clear grey ground-colour, marked with distinct dark spots, the present example is very tawny in general tint, faintly but regularly brindled with a darker rufous-grey. There is a distinct black stripe along the upper surface of the tail, the rings of which are imperfect and interrupted, excepting those near the tip. The Asia-Minor Wild Cats would thus appear to be much more variable in coloration than any European specimens which we have examined.

7. *†FELIS CHAUS, Güld.

This species appears to be tolerably common near Marash, where it inhabits the marshy districts known as the Plain of Bazardjik; skins from this locality do not appear to differ in any way from North-African specimens. The Booted Cat is also found in Southern Persia and in Palestine.

8. *FELIS LYNX, Linn. D. & A., p. 272.

In our first paper we introduced the *F. lynx* doubtfully, on the strength of a skin purchased in Constantinople. Last year Danford obtained a very fine specimen from the mountains near Albistan, thus proving that the ranges of the Northern and South-European Lynxes meet in Asia Minor. The Albistan skin differs much from the Constantinople one, which was only obscurely spotted. Its ground-colour above is a beautiful silvery rufous, the longer hairs being largely tipped with white; and it is marked with numerous jet-black spots, which are linear in shape on the back and rounded on the flanks; on the thighs the spots show an inclination to group themselves into rosettes, like those of the Leopard.

9. *FELIS PARDINA, Temm. *Ushék*. D. & A., no. 6.

10. *FELIS CARACAL, Linn. *Kara-koulak*. D. & A., no. 7.

[*†FELIS JUBATA, Schreb.

A skin of the Cheetah was presented to Danford at Biledjik, on the Euphrates, by his host Sheik Mustapha, who stated that the animal had been killed among the rocks near Sevi, a small village about five hours down the river on the Mesopotamian side; it was the only specimen which he had ever seen. This Society has received

more than one specimen from Syria, and it is not improbable that the species may be found in some parts of Asia Minor proper. Sheik Mustapha also informed him that five years ago a Lion appeared near Biledjik, and after destroying many horses was done to death.]

11. *HYÆNA STRIATA, Zimm. *Zyrtlan*. D. & A., no. 8.

Not rare in the Euphrates valley, near Biledjik, where the natives assert that it understands Arabic and may be taken in the following way:—A man crawls into its den with a noosed rope, and stroking the Hyæna, caressingly says, "You are very nice and pretty and quite like a Lion, indeed you are a Lion." This so flatters the Hyæna that he allows the rope to be put round his neck, and is forthwith dragged out.

[GENETTA VULGARIS, Less. D. & A., p. 273.

No further evidence of the supposed occurrence of the Genetta was obtained.]

12. *HERPESTES ICHNEUMON (Linn.). *Yer kiopek*. D. & A., no. 9.

Ichneumons were very common in the Pyramus valley.

13. *CANIS LUPUS, Linn. *Kurt, Yanovar*. D. & A., no. 10.
Wolves were seen in the Anti-Taurus.

14. *CANIS AUREUS, Linn. *Schakal*. D. & A., no. 11.
Jackals were very abundant at Adana.

15. *CANIS VULPES, Linn. *Telki*. D. & A., no. 12.

In our previous communication we doubtfully identified an imperfect skin of a Fox as representing a pale long-haired race of *C. vulpes*. A second specimen, from Marash, is darker, and redder above and rather whiter below; the brush has a rudimentary white "tag;" and the fore legs are blackish, with hardly a trace of rufous. The size is small; but, the skull and long bones being unfortunately wanting, we cannot give measurements. After careful comparison we can find no characters by which it can be separated from some South-European specimens of *C. vulpes*.

16. *MELES TAXUS (Schreb.). *Porsook*. D. & A., no. 13.

[ICTONYX ZORILLA (Thunb.). D. & A., p. 274.

As on his former expedition, Danford did not meet with the Zorilla.]

17. *MARTES FOINA (Erxl.). *Samsar*. D. & A., no. 14.

Appears to be very common on the hills near Marash, as a great number of fine skins are exposed in the bazaar. Among these no examples of *M. sylvatica* were observed.

18. *MUSTELA VULGARIS, Erxl. D. & A., no. 15.

19. †MUSTELA SARMATICA, Pall. D. & A., p. 275.

Of this species, which we formerly introduced doubtfully on the