

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE AND CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 10, 1832.

Joshua Brookes, Esq., in the Chair.

Specimens were exhibited of several *Birds*, *Land-Shells*, and *Corals*, together with the *cranium* of a *Balænoptera*, LaCép., all collected at the Cape of Good Hope by Dr. Andrew Smith, Corr. Memb. Z. S., and presented by him to the Society. In illustration of the subjects exhibited, extracts were read from a letter from Dr. Smith which accompanied his present. The *Balænoptera* was there referred to as *Bal. Capensis*: it is apparently the *Rorqual du Cap* of M. Cuvier in his 'Ossemens Fossiles,' which has since been named by M. Desmoulins *Bal. Poeskop*, and by M. Fischer *Bal. Lalandii*.

Specimens were also exhibited of several *Mammalia*, *Birds*, and *Fishes*, collected by Mr. H. Cuming chiefly in Chili.

Among the *Mammalia*, Mr. Bennett pointed out as apparently new to science an *Otter* and a *Mouse*, which may be characterized as follows:

LUTRA CHILENSIS. *Lut. suprâ saturatè vinaceo-brunnea, infrâ pallidior; caudâ brunneo-nigricante, corporis dimidio parum brevior.*

Hab. in aquis Chiliæ.

The fur is composed of hairs of two kinds: the inner woolly and thickly furnished; the outer silky, also thickly set, and completely concealing the inner. The colour of the fur of the upper surface is glossy brown on the head, (where the hairs are comparatively short,) and increasing in depth as it proceeds backwards becomes blackish on the rump, and still more decidedly so on the tail. The lower surface of this member, for the extreme three-fourths of its length, is of the same colour with the upper; near the vent it becomes paler and assumes a reddish hue; and this colour is continued, with a slight canescent tint, along the whole of the under