

## AFRICAN ZOOLOGY:

By DR. SMITH.

*Continued from page 224.*

*Catoblepas Taurina.* (The Kokoon.) Adult male nearly four feet six inches high at the shoulder; much lower at the croup, and five feet from the breast to the rump; head, neck, and shoulder, excessively thick and strong; head shorter and broader in proportion; eyes very high in the head; horns less broad at base, marked with irregular rugosities at the roots, more distant at base; black, bent down sideways behind the ears, and then suddenly turned upwards, but not to the front; forehead high between their bases; head one foot ten inches long; ears ten inches; tail three feet three inches, covered with long black hair; neck with a long flowing dark mane, reaching beyond the withers; a cartilaginous protuberance covering the chaffron, and furnished with long black hair; large circular glandulous naked spot, distilling a viscous humour beneath each eye; chin covered with dark bristly beard, descending down the dewlap to the breast; general colour dark ashy-grey.

Cocong, Lichtenstein's *Travels.* A. *Taurina*, Burchell. Kokoon, Somerville and Daniell.

Inhabits South Africa.

*Catoblepas Gorgon.* (The Brindled Gnoo.) Adult male? larger than the Gnoo; horns placed close together, white, round, standing up, bent outwards, and the points turned towards each other, and black; forehead and chaffron covered with irregular depressions; nose and mouth flat and square; ears short; long flowing mane on neck, extending beyond the withers; no beard on the under jaw; long black hairs on the throat and dewlap; tail black, but shorter than in the former; general colour dirty-dun and sepia-grey, variegated with obscure streaks or brindles; four or five cross streaks on the upper arm.

Inhabits the Interior of South Africa.

Bastard Wilde Beest of the Cape Colonists.

Genus *Bos.*

*Skull very strong, dense about the frontals, which are convex, nearly flat or concave; horns invariably occupying the crest, projecting at first laterally; osseous nucleus throughout porous, even cellular; muzzle invariably broad, naked, moist, black; ears in general middle-sized; body long; legs solid; stature large.*

Sub-genus BUEALUS.—*Animals low in proportion to their bulk; limbs very solid; head large; forehead narrow, very strong, convex; chaffron straight; muzzie square; horns lying flat or bending laterally with a certain direction to the rear; eyes large; ears mostly funnel-shaped; no hunch; a small dewlap; female, udder with four mammæ; tail long, slender.*

*Bubalus Caffer.* (The Cape Buffalo.) Adult male about five feet six inches at the shoulder, nine feet from nose to root of tail; horns spreading horizontally on the head, in contact at base, eight or ten inches broad, very ponderous, dark coloured, and above five feet from tip to tip, the internal nucleus very cellular, the points turned up; the incisor teeth loose; ears wide, rather hanging; under-jaw bearded; back straight; hide black, almost naked, and the end of tail furnished with a few distichous bristles; in the young much black longish hair, particularly about the ridge of the back.

Inhabits South Africa.

*B. Caffer*, Sparrm. et Auctor. Cape Ox, Penn. Qu'araho of the Hottentots. Zamouse? in Bornou.

*Bubalus Pegasus?* (The Pagasse.) A young male, the horns lying across the summit of the head, the tips turned up; colour darkish, with obscure transverse ridges; head very short, thick, abrupt at the nose; forehead wide; eyes large and full; the neck with a dense mane; ears long, flaccid, pendulous; tail to below the houghs covered with long woolly black hair, general colour deep brown; feet white.

Inhabits Congo, Angola, Central Africa.

Pacasse, Gallini and Carli. Empaguessa, Merolla. Empacasse, Lopez, Marmol. Pegasus, Pliny. Wadan? Captain Lyon's *Travels*. *B. Pegasus*, H. Smith, MS.

## ORDER CETACEA.

BODY pisciform, terminated by a caudal appendage, cartilaginous, and horizontal; two anterior extremities formed like fins, having the bones which form them flattened and very short; head joined to the body by a very short thick neck; two pectoral or abdominal mammæ; ears with very small external openings; brain large; pelvis and bones of the posterior extremities represented by two rudimentary bones lost in the flesh.

## FAM. SIRENIA.

Molars with flat coronal; sometimes tusks in the upper jaw; two pectoral mammæ; mustaches; nostrils, properly so called, placed at the end of the muzzle; nasal apertures on the upper part of the head; body very massive. Food, vegetable.

Genus MANATUS. *Linnæus.*

*Incisors*  $\frac{1}{2}$ , *canines*  $\frac{0}{0}$ , *molars*  $\frac{3}{3}$ ,—38. *The incisors exist only in the fœtus, and the adults have but 32 teeth, four of the molars falling out in early age; molars with two transverse cushions on their crown; head not distinct from the body; eyes very small; tongue oval; vestiges of nails on the margin of the pectoral fins; six cervical vertebræ; sixteen pairs of thick ribs; mustaches composed of a bundle of very strong hairs directed downwards, and forming on each side a kind of corneous tusk.*

*Manatus Senegalensis*, Desm. (Senegal Lamantin.) General colour ashy-lilac; head bony, short in proportion to its breadth; breadth of nasal foramina three-fourths of their length; inferior margin of lower jaw curved; smaller than the American Lamantin. About eight feet long.

Inhabits the month of the Senegal.

*Trichecus Australis*, Shaw. Lamantin du Senegal, Adanson, *Voyage*.

Genus HALICORE. *Cuvier.*

*Incisors*  $\frac{3}{3}$ , *canines*  $\frac{0}{0}$ , *molars*  $\frac{11}{11}$ ,—14. *In early age, incisors*  $\frac{1}{1}$ , *canines*  $\frac{0}{0}$ , *molars*  $\frac{5}{5}$ ,—32. *Two of the upper incisors cylindrical and straight, forming tusks; molars cylindrical, and only three on each side in the adults; body pisciform, terminated by a horizontal fin with two lobes; head not distinct from the body; muzzle truncated and moveable, with thick spiny hairs on the edges of the lips; tongue soft; fins short, without distinct fingers or nails; seven cervical vertebræ; eighteen pairs of ribs.*

*Halicore Indicus*, Desm. Head rounded towards the top, oblique from the forehead to the muzzle, which last is vertical and terminates abruptly. This part of the face is formed by the upper lip, which hangs from each side of the mouth forming these two mobile and fleshy pendants which cover a part of the lower jaw laterally. These are set with small corneous spines about an inch long; between these is a slope in front of the upper jaw which receives the extremity of the lower, above which the points of the tusks are perceptible on each side. The interior of these lips is furnished with corneous warts. The nostrils form two parabolic clefts approximating at the upper extremity of the muzzle; the opening of the ear is very small, and there is no external conch; the eyes are simple and small; the fins show no vestiges of nails, but have warty callosities underneath at their external edge; the tail is horizontally sloped or cut like the arch of a circle; the body is wider at the middle than the extremities, and the part towards the tail is

more slender than the opposite end; the skin is smooth and has some scattered hairs. Seven or eight feet long.

Inhabits the Indian Seas and the Mozambique Channel.

Dugong, Buff. Indian Walrus, Penn. *Trichecus Dugong*, Gmel. *Rosmarus Indicus*, Camper, Raffles, Home, F. Cuvier.

### FAM. DELPHINIDÆ.

Teeth pointed or obtuse, all of one kind, upon the borders of the jaws; two anal mammæ; spiracles on the top of the head, with their external opening simple; tail flattened horizontally and bifurcated. Food, animal.

Sub-genus *DELPHINORHYNCHUS*, Blainville.—*Snout prolonged, with a long and slender beak; jaws almost linear, with numerous teeth on their margins.*

*Delphinorhynchus Capensis*. Body long and rather slender; head somewhat conical and terminated before, by a long distinct somewhat flattened snout; hinder part of body near tail strongly carinated both above and below. Colour above a deep shining black, sides a dull dusky white, each obliquely cut by a narrow well-defined blackish streak, which commences immediately behind the eye and terminates or rather loses itself on the belly about two feet in front of the tail; under-parts white. Between the angle of the mouth and base of pectoral fin a dusky streak, and between that and the black band already mentioned the colour is a dusky white. Teeth slender, conical, and slightly curved inwards, about sixty-six in the upper jaw and about ninety in the lower; eyes situated a little higher than the angles of the mouth and about an inch and a half behind them; opening of the spiracles directly over the eyes; dorsal fin slightly falcated, and a little bent backward; pectoral fins narrow and falcated; caudal fin somewhat semilunar with a deep notch behind at the termination of the back-bone. Length from tip of nose to extremity of tail six feet; length from tip of snout to anterior edge of dorsal fin two feet ten inches; height of dorsal fin six inches and a half; width of hinder edge of caudal fin fifteen inches and a half.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope,—generally solitary.

*Delphinus Capensis*, Gray. *Spicilegia Zoologica*, part i. p. 2.

Sub-genus *DELPHINUS*, Blainville.—*Head globular or sub-conical, terminated by a beak distinct from the profile of the face, broad at its base, smaller and rounded at its extremity.*

*Delphinus Delphis*, Linnæus. Head terminated in front by a long flat snout; the upper and under jaws of equal length, each with about forty-seven pointed teeth, and when the mouth is closed those of the one jaw are included between those of the other; the opening of the spiracles situated nearly above the eyes. The skin is very smooth and shining, the colour in some individuals is a livid brown, in others it is black, on the back, and pearly grey clouded with black on the sides and belly or the belly is entirely white. Tail divided into two large lobes, slightly notched in the middle, and its breadth from one point to the other is generally equal to about two ninths of the entire length of the animal, which averages between seven and nine feet. Period of gestation ten months, and the female seldom produces more than one at a birth.

Inhabits most seas—and amongst others those on the West Coast of Africa.

*Delphinus Heavisidii*. Gray. Head subconical, and terminated in front by a short tapering, somewhat cylindrical, snout; body thick in proportion to its length, black, variegated beneath with white; the marking of the latter colour consist of a narrow transverse band in front of, and a somewhat triangular spot behind, each of the pectoral fins, and of a longitudinal line on the belly which divides beneath the dorsal fin into three forks, the central one of which is continued in a direct line, and the lateral ones extended obliquely up the sides. Dorsal fin triangular, and about five inches in height; tail semilunar behind and notched in the middle. Length from nose to hinder edge of tail five feet; length from point of snout to anterior edge of dorsal fin two feet three inches; breadth of dorsal fin eight inches and a quarter; length from hinder edge of dorsal fin to tail fin one foot six inches; width of hinder edge of caudal fin fourteen inches.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope,—gregarious.

*Delphinus tridens*, Smith, MS.

*Delphinus obscurus*, Gray. Colour of back a clear shining black, sides of head and body clouded black and white; belly white; on each side an indistinct dusky stripe, commencing below the dorsal fin, descending obliquely and ending in the posterior and under part of the body; anterior portion of lower jaw and under surface in front of tail dusky black, and a similarly coloured ring surrounds each eye; snout short, rounded, and not very distinct from the anterior portion of the head; teeth slightly curved, the convexities outwards, in the upper jaw about forty on each side, and in the lower about thirty-six; pectoral fins long, pointed, and falciform.

form; dorsal fin rather nearer the tail than the head, large, high, pointed and falcated. Length about six feet.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope.

Delphinus Homeji, Smith. *Zoological Journal*, vol. iv. p. 441.  
Tonine of the Cape Colonists.

Sub-genus GRAMPUS, Gray.—Head globular or sub-conical, terminated by a snout not distinguishable from the profile of the face; teeth conical and slightly curved inwards.

*Grampus Gladiator*, Lacepede. Head convex above, slightly tapering to the anterior extremity, which has no distinct snout: upper jaw rather longest; teeth eleven on each side of both jaws, strong, conical, and slightly curved inwards; eyes placed a little above and behind angles of mouth; opening of spiracles over the eyes; body very thick about the dorsal fin, from whence it gradually tapering towards the caudal fin; lower parts as far as anus white, the hinder portion of the white three-forked, the centre fork shortest, the lateral ones longest and extend, one on each side, obliquely upwards and backwards; behind and rather above the level of the eye a longitudinal waved white stripe, pointed at both extremities; all the other parts of the animal deep shining black. Dorsal fin situated much nearer the head than the tail, about three feet ten inches high, very strong, triangular, straight, and tapering nearly to a point; pectoral fins short and broad; caudal fin two-lobed with a slight notch behind opposite vertebral column, inner and hinder edges of each lobe convex, outer edges towards points concave. Length from nose to hinder edge of tail nineteen feet.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope.

Killer of the Whale Fishers.

Sub-genus PHOCÆNA, Cuvier.—No beak, snout short and gibbous.

*Phocæna globiceps*, Cuvier. Head rounded above and terminated in front by a very short pointed and scarcely distinct snout; figure slender in proportion to its length; colour entirely black, rather lightest beneath; dorsal fin low, slanting backward, falcated behind, and placed nearer the tail than the head; hinder part of body strongly and sharply carinated above, slightly below; tail fin slightly crescent-shaped and faintly notched opposite termination of vertebral column; pectoral fins long, narrow, and pointed; eyes situated immediately above the angles of the mouth. Length from tip of snout to hinder edge of caudal fin five feet and a half; from tip of snout to anterior edge of dorsal fin twenty-three inches; from posterior

edge of dorsal fin to hinder edge of tail fin thirty-three inches. Height of dorsal fin four inches and a quarter; length of pectoral fins ten inches and a half; distance from point to point of caudal fin thirteen inches; length from tip of snout to angle of mouth seven inches and three quarters.

Inhabits the seas on the South-east coast of Africa.

*Obs.* I am unable to state the number of the teeth as the specimen I possess is young.

*Phocæna Edwardii*, Smith. Head large and clumsy, rounded on the upper surface and terminated in front by a short pointed snout; teeth twelve in each jaw; eyes situated a little above the angles of the mouth; dorsal fin long, pointed, slightly curved backwards, and situated nearly midway between head and tail; pectoral fins narrow and pointed, caudal fin deeply and widely notched opposite termination of vertebral column. Colour of back, sides, throat, and under parts of body towards tail, black; breast and belly white. Length from tip of snout to hinder edge of tail fin twelve feet two inches; circumference immediately in front of dorsal fin six feet nine inches; tail fin measured from point to point two feet eight inches.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope.

For the description and a drawing of this species I am indebted to Mr. E. Verreaux, who some time ago had a good opportunity of examining a specimen which had been cast on the shore near Slang-Kop.

#### FAM. PHYSETERIDÆ.

Upper jaw wide and elevated, without teeth, or only with rudimentary ones; lower jaw elongated, narrow, and corresponding to a furrow of the upper one, teeth on each side; spiracles opening externally by a single orifice, which is situated at or near the upper end of the muzzle; dorsal fins in some; simple eminences in others. Large cavities with cartilagenous walls in the upper region of the head communicating with diverse parts of the body by particular canals filled with an oil which crystallizes when cool.

#### Genus CATODON. *Lacepede.*

*Orifice of spiracles at the very end of the upper part of the muzzle; a hunch instead of a dorsal fin.*

*Catodon macrocephalus*, Lacepede. (Spermaceti Whale.) Head truncated in front, and of a somewhat cubical form, from twenty to thirty teeth in the lower jaw, which are strong conical, slightly curved inwards, and white like ivory; eyes blackish, surrounded by strong black hair, and are situated in an eminence behind and above the angles of the mouth; auditory

opening with difficulty distinguishable; nape marked by a slight depression which is traceable on each side as far as the pectoral fins; belly large and round; tail notched behind, and measures from point to point about fifteen feet; on the back towards last third of body there is a longitudinal callosity in the form of a fin, which is abrupt or truncated behind. Skin very soft, colour commonly blackish with greenish reflections intermixed with shades of grey, sometimes the colour is slaty blue spotted with white, and the belly is always white. The general length of the animal is from sixty to seventy feet, and the circumference at the thickest part about fifty feet.

Inhabits most seas,—occurs in the Mozambique Channel and near the South-east Coast of Africa.

### FAM. BALAENIDÆ.

Teeth none; upper jaw furnished on each side with whale-bones or transverse slender corneous laminae, which are attenuated and fringed at the inner edges; orifices of the spiracles separate, and situated towards the middle of the upper portion of head.

#### Genus BALÆNA. *Linnæus.*

*No dorsal fin; back regular, or with a hunch.*

*Balæna mysticetus*, Linnæus. Figure cylindrical from the neck to within ten feet of the tail, beyond which it is somewhat quadrangular, the greatest ridge being upward, or on the back, and running backward nearly across the middle of the tail. Head somewhat of a triangular shape; the under part, the arched outline of which is given by the jaw-bones, is flat, and measures 16 to 20 feet in length, and 10 to 12 in breadth; the lips extending 15 to 20 feet in length and 5 or 6 in height, and forming the cavity of the mouth, are attached to the under jaw, and arise from the jaw-bones at an angle of about 80 degrees, having the appearance, when viewed in front, of the letter U. The upper jaw, including the crown bone, or skull, is bent down at the extremity, and is overlapped by the lips in a squamous manner at the sides. In the place of teeth there are two extensive rows of fins, or whalebone, suspended from the sides of the crown bone, they are covered immediately by the lips, and inclose the tongue between their lower extremities. Each series consist of about 300 laminae, the longest are near the middle from whence they gradually diminish again to nothing at each extremity: 10 or 11 feet is the average length, and the greatest breadth, which is at the gum, is 10 or 12 inches. The laminae comprising the series are ranged side by side, two-



thirds of an inch apart. The interior edges are covered with a fringe of hair, and the exterior edge of every blade, excepting a few at each extremity of the series, is curved and flattened down, so as to present a smooth surface to the lips. The colour of the whalebone is brownish black or bluish black; in some it is striped longitudinally with white. The eyes about a foot obliquely above and behind the angles of the mouth, small in proportion to the size of the animal. A slight beard, consisting of a few short scattered white hairs, on the anterior extremity of both jaws. Spiracles or blow holes, about 16 feet behind the anterior extremity of the jaw, each 6 or 8 inches long. Pectoral fins placed between two-thirds and two-fifths of the length of the animal from the snout, and about 2 feet behind the angle of the mouth: they are from 7 to 9 feet in length, and from 4 to 5 in breadth; the part by which they are attached to the body is somewhat elliptical, and about 2 feet in diameter; the side which strikes the water is nearly flat; tail flat and circular, indented in the middle, the two lobes somewhat pointed and turned a little backward, its length 5 or 6 feet, its width 18 to 24 or 26 feet. The colour is velvety black, grey, (composed of dots of blackish brown on a white ground,) and white with a tinge of yellow; the back, most of the upper jaw, and part of the lower jaw, together with the fins and tail, are black; the tongue, the fore-part of the under-jaw, and lips, sometimes a little of the upper-jaw at the extremity, and a portion of the belly, white; the eyelids, the junction of the tail with the body, a portion in the axilla of the fins, &c. are grey: some have been seen all over piebald.\* The older animals contain the most grey and white; under-size whales are altogether of a bluish black, and suckers of a pale bluish or bluish-grey colour. The skin of the body is slightly furrowed, on the tail it is smooth. It is supposed to attain its full growth about the age of twenty-five years, and the period of gestation is calculated to be between nine and ten months. The total length of the animal may be stated as averaging from 50 to 65 feet, and its greatest circumference from 30 to 40 feet; weight of a whale of 60 feet, about 70 tons.

Inhabits principally the Northern and Southern Seas.

*Obs.* From comparisons of the Skeleton procured at the Cape (by De Lalande) with others from the Arctic Regions, it has been considered by some Naturalists that the true Whale of the South Seas is a different species from that of the North Seas. Having no doubt as to the propriety of the conclusion, I have furnished a detailed account of that of the latter from Scoresby's excellent work, in order to enable persons possessing opportunities of observing those of the South Seas, to compare

\* Scoresby's Account of the Arctic Regions, vol. i. p. 452.

their characters with those of the Northern Seas. I think the proportion the head bears to the body will be found to be very different, and even the form of the body itself. If thirteen feet be the size of the calf in the Northern Seas at the period of birth, as stated by Mr. Scoresbey, it will be found to be much inferior to what is observed in the South Seas, for I have myself seen more than one extracted from the uterus which had attained the length of nineteen feet.

### GENUS BALÆNOPTERA. *Lacépède.*

*Head flattened horizontally; lower jaw longer than the upper; skin of the throat and breast with strong rugæ or folds; whalebones short; a short thick fin towards hinder part of back, more or less resembling a hunch: form more slender than in the true whales.*

*Balænoptera rorqual*, Lacépède. Colour above black, beneath white; body behind the nape very thick; head short in proportion to the body; lower jaw rounded, longer and much broader than the upper, its anterior part often slightly scolloped; whalebones black, and seldom exceed three feet in length; they are stiffer, harder, and more horny than those of the common whale, and their inner edges and points have a fringe of bristly fibres; eyes situated above and very close to the angles of the mouth; the orifices of the spiracles close to the eyes, and placed in an elevated pyramid; pectoral fins lanceolate and at a considerable distance behind the angles of the mouth but on nearly the same level; the dorsal fin which is slightly notched commences opposite the anus and extends nearly to the tail, which is divided into two lobes, each of which is notched behind; under part of head and belly with longitudinal rugæ. Length between seventy and ninety feet.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope?—common in the North Seas.

*Balæna musculus*, Gmel. Lin. *Balæne rorqual*, Bennet.

*Obs.* From the descriptions I have received of the *Fin Fish* which often appears in the Bays of both the Western and Eastern Coasts of Africa, I feel disposed to regard it as the Rorqual. It may, however, prove to be a different species when those who can note its characters shall have an opportunity of examining a dead specimen. It is here rarely attacked by the *Fishers*, being considered dangerous, and of little value, from its yielding but a small proportion of oil. About twelve years ago one was killed in Table Bay which measured ninety-five feet.

*Balænoptera Capensis*, Smith. Head depressed, slightly convex above with a small projection on each side of spiracles; the apex of upper-jaw acutely rounded; lower-jaw much longer

and broader than upper-jaw, and with three or four sub-globular elevations on each side near tip; back slightly arched, with a carinated and slightly elevated hunch towards the tail, highest about its middle, from whence it slants off to each extremity; hinder part of body carinated both above and below; throat and breast strongly marked with elevated, longitudinal rugæ, with deep corresponding furrows between them; eyes a little above the angle of the mouth, and the openings of spiracles rather in front of them; laminæ of whalebone 300 on each side, of a bluish colour, and margined on their inner edges by stiff horny bristles. Back and sides black; belly dull white with some irregular black spots. Pectoral fins narrow, and both their anterior and posterior edges irregularly notched, upper surfaces black, under surfaces pure white; hinder edge of tail fin nearly square with a slight notch at its middle opposite the back bone, on each side of which it is slightly convex, towards points a little concave. Length from tip of lower-jaw to hinder margin of tail fin thirty-four feet and a half; from tip of lower-jaw to angle of mouth seven feet and a half; from point of upper-jaw to angle of mouth six feet; from angle of mouth to base of pectoral fins three feet. Length of pectoral fins nine feet, width of the same near base two feet, near point one foot; width of tail from tip to tip nine feet; length of whalebone near angles of mouth one foot.

Inhabits the seas about the Cape of Good Hope.

*Hump-back of the Whale Fishers.*

*Obs.* The only specimen of this species which I have had an opportunity of examining, had lost the skin of the hinder portion of the back before I saw it, so that I am unable to describe the hunch from my own observation. Those who have been in the habit of seeing and killing this species all agree as to the character of the hunch, and from what I have myself observed at a distance through a telescope, I should feel inclined to regard their description as correct. They unite in asserting that there is nothing of the appearance of a regular fin, and all that I could ever distinguish from watching the animal when in motion and partly above the surface of the water, was a sort of semilunar elevation towards the tail and somewhat above the line of the back.