

comprehends the short-eared owl of England, and numerous other nearly allied species which are distributed universally over the globe, from all of which it may be distinguished by its smaller size and darker colouring. I am led to regard the members of this section as possessing characters of sufficient value to justify their being separated into a distinct genus, for which I propose the name of *Brachyotus*.

Mr. Martin described a species of *Fox* brought by Mr. Darwin from the island of Chiloe, respecting which he made the following remarks:—

The animal in question is probably identical with the *Culpeu* of Molina, especially as the account of its surprise at the presence of man, uncombined with any exertions to escape, as given by Mr. Darwin, agree with the observations of Molina. Still, however, the description of the *Culpeu* is too vague to render its identity with the present species a matter of certainty; and as I regard it to be the best and safest plan in all doubtful cases to set the matter in such a light as to prevent if possible any confusion, I shall here describe and name the animal, for which I propose the specific title *fulvipes*.

VULPES FULVIPES. *Vulp. robustus, artubus brevibus caudâ mediocri; corporis colore cano nigroque commixtis; hoc in dorso prævalente: capite sordidè fulvescente, cano irrorato, rostro fusco, labiis superioribus ad marginem sordide albis, mento fuliginoso, auribus externe castaneis; brachiis interne, tarsiis digitisque fulvis; genis, guld, corporeque subtus, sordide albis; caudâ velleri breviori per tertiam partem indutâ, apice floccoso et fuliginoso.*

	ft.	in.	lin.
Longitudo corporis ad basin caudæ	2	0	0
———— caudæ ad apicem velleris	0	9	0
———— rostri ad oculos	0	1	4
———— aurium	0	1	3
———— tarsorum ad plantam digitalem	0	2	4
Altitudo apud humeros	0	10	0

Hab. Chiloe.

The *Vulpes fulvipes* is remarkable for the stout form of the body and the shortness of the limbs: the tail is rather short, and covered with hair of moderate length, except at the extremity, where it forms an abrupt and full tuft tipped with sooty black. The general fur is full, moderately deep, and rather harsh; on the body the colour is hoary mixed with black, the latter being more decided down the top of the back; the head inclines to fulvous, grizzled with hoary. The muzzle and skin are dusky, but the edges of the lips are white; the ears are rather short and of a chestnut brown; the outside of the fore limbs is dusky black freckled with fulvous inner side and toes pale fulvous brown; a dark mark approaching black above the tarsal joint; tarsi and toes fulvous brown. Under parts dirty white. Hair of two sorts, viz. those which constitute a soft

under vest of a dusky greyish brown, through which pass long hairs of a dusky brown at the base with a black band, followed by a yellowish white band and tipped with black; a mixture producing the grizzled character of the fur of the body.

The Secretary read a communication from J. O. Westwood, Esq., describing several new species of Insects belonging to the family of the *Sacred Beetles*.

After noticing the interest which is attached to the family of the *Scarabæida*, not only on account of their curious habits, whence they were raised to the rank of objects of worship by the Egyptians, but also from having led to the publication of the *Hora Entomologica* by Mr. MacLeay, in which an analysis of the Linnæan *Scarabæi* was given; the author gives an abstract of the classifications of this family respectively proposed by MacLeay, Latreille, (*Règne An.*, 2nd edition), and Serville and Saint Fargeau (*Encyclop. Méthod.* vol. x.), with a notice of the genera more recently proposed by various authors referrible or allied thereto. From a review of these distributions in conjunction with the natural economy of the insects of which the family is composed, the author is disposed to consider the family as divisible into two natural groups, those with long hind legs and those which have their legs short and conical; and also that the characters of the genus *Scarabæus* and subgenus *Heliocantharus* must either be modified so as to exclude the species which are destitute of a distinct spur at the extremity of the intermediate *tibia*, or that the *Ateuchus Adamastor* (*Enc. Méth.*) and the insects subsequently described must be regarded as referrible to the genus *Scarabæus*, although possessing two spurs at the extremity of the intermediate *tibia*, agreeing in all other material respects with the true *Scarabæi*.

The following is an abstract of the characters of the insects, the descriptions of which were accompanied by figures exhibiting the various essential organs in detail, and by observations upon the structural peculiarities of the two groups.

TYPUS SCELIAGES.

Corpus latum, subdepressum. *Caput* subtrigonum clypeo trilobato, lobo intermedio valdè emarginato. *Antennæ* clavâ subglobosâ, articulo 7^{mo} magno infernè producto, articulos duos terminales in sinu ejus includente, ultimo 8vo minori. *Palpi* maxillares breves subfiliformes, labiales abbreviati 3-articulati, articulis magnitudine decrescentibus. *Thorax* abdomine paullo latior. *Tibiæ* anticæ magnæ, pone medium intus curvatæ. *Tibiæ* intermediæ bicalcaratæ.

SCELIAGES IOPAS.

Ater nitidus lævis, clypei dentibus intermediis duobus obtusis subelevatis, copite anticè punctatissimo, thorace lavissimo, clytris punctis nonnullis minutissimis irregularibus striisque sex longitudinalibus simplicibus fere oblitteratis.

Long. corp. 10 lin. Africa Austral. Mus. Hope et P. Walker.