

*Chiru* is probably identical with the *Kemas* of Ælian, Mr. Hodgson remarks, that if the latter animal is justly characterized as having a white tail, and residing in woods, it must be distinct from the *Chiru*, which inhabits open plains exclusively, never frequenting either mountains or woods; and in which, moreover, the tail on its outer surface is always coloured like the proximal part of the back.

Mr. Hodgson concludes his paper by a detailed description of the skull and horns of the *Chiru*. The bony *nucleus* of the latter has a large oval cavity, communicating by one clean canal with the frontal sinuses. A cavity also exists in the osseous core of the horns of the *Thár Antelope*.

A "Description of the *wild Dog* of Nepâl," by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., Corr. Memb. Z. S., was read. Its local name is *Búánsú*. It is characterized as the

*CANIS PRIMÆVUS. Can. dentibus molaribus in maxillâ inferiore utrinque sex; palmis plantisque pilosis; auribus erectis; suprâ saturatè rubiginosus, infrâ flavescens; caudâ insigniter comosâ, rectâ, mediocri.*

The very remarkable peculiarity in the number of the molar teeth of the lower jaw, indicated in the specific character, has been verified by Mr. Hodgson on the examination of the *crania* of three adult, two mature, and one young individual of the race. The deficient number is occasioned by the absence of the second tubercular tooth. All the other teeth exist in the ordinary number and positions.

At the commencement of his paper, Mr. Hodgson remarks on the uncertainty that prevails as to the primitive stock of the *familiar Dog*, and rejecting, with most modern zoologists, the claim of the *Wolf*, the *Jackal*, and the *Fox* to rank as its prototype, he also argues against regarding as such the half-reclaimed *Dingo* of Australia. He thinks that he has detected this original race in the *Búánsú* of Nepâl, the eastern and western limits of whose range appear to be the Sutlege and the Burhampootra, and which seems to extend, with some immaterial differences, into the Vindya, the Ghauts, the Nilgiris, the Casiah Hills, and in the chain passing brokenly from Mirzapore through South Bahar and Orissa to the Coromandel Coast.

Of this race, although so wild as to be rarely seen, Mr. Hodgson has succeeded in obtaining many individuals; some of which lived in confinement many months, and even produced young, having been pregnant when they reached him. He is consequently enabled to describe not only the form and colours, but the manners also, which he does in great detail. The form he compares particularly with that of the *Indian Jackal* and the *Indian Fox*, short notices of which he gives as an Appendix, and comparative figures of which with the *Búánsú* he also forwards with his paper. The paper is also accompanied by comparative figures of the *crania* of these several species; and the description given of this important part of the animal structure is also comparative.

The *Búánsú* preys by night as well as by day, and hunts in packs of from six to ten individuals, maintaining the chase rather by its

powers of smell than by the eye, and generally overcoming its quarry by dint of force and perseverance. In hunting it barks like a hound; but its bark is peculiar, and equally unlike that of the cultivated breeds of *Dogs* and the strains of the *Jackal* and the *Fox*.

Adults in captivity made no approach towards domestication; but a young one, which Mr. Hodgson obtained when it was not more than a month old, became sensible to caresses; distinguished the dogs of its own kennel from others, as well as its keeper from strangers; and in its whole conduct manifested to the full as much intelligence as any of his sporting dogs of the same age.

It appears by a notice in the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta,' that Mr. Hodgson's paper on the *Búansú* has been read before that body. It is consequently to be expected that it will be published in the 'Asiatic Researches.'