

## THE ARCTICTIS OF JAVA.

By

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In 1822 F. CUVIER gave to a grey Binturong supposed to inhabit Bhutan and represented by a sketch sent him by DUVANCEL, the name *Paradoxurus albifrons* (Mem. du Mus., IX, p. 48). The animal is figured in the Hist. Nat. des Mamm., Sept. 1824. Though BLYTH (fide GRAY, P.Z.S., 1864, p. 525) records the Binturong from Nepal the occurrence of the species so far north has never been substantiated.

Knowing how inaccurate were many of the habitats attributed by zoologist at home to the material sent them by the collectors of the early part of the last century (of whom DUVANCEL was one) we may safely treat as incorrect the provenance attached to *albifrons*. OUSTALET recognises this when he says (Bull. Mus. d'hist. Nat. 1901, p. 318) that it was in Java that DUVANCEL and DIARD captured, in 1822 and 1826, the two individuals which formed the types of *albifrons* and *ater*. But he is not altogether correct, for *ater* was described in 1824 (Hist. Nat., Sept.): the type was more probably a Sumatran animal and *ater* is thus a synonym of *binturong* RAFFLES, as is *penicillata* TEMMINCK.

The Binturongs of Java are markedly paler than those occurring elsewhere. Three mounted Javanese examples in the Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg, are the palest I have seen, having the pelage far more tipped with white than any others, their whiskers are white, or partly so, and the feet are much whitened. Generally the young Binturong has its fur much more pale-tipped than the old one, but these Javanese specimens are large adults (the type of *albifrons* was "very adult") and I have no doubt that the character of paleness is a racial one.

Instead of proposing a new name for them I select Java as the terra typica of *albifrons*.

The Javanese race should thus be recorded as *Arctictis binturong albifrons* (F. CUV.).

Other races of *Arctictis* which have been proposed are:—

- A. whitei* ALLEN (1910) Palawan Id.
- A. pageli* SCHWARZ (1911) North Borneo.
- A. niasensis* LYON (1916) Nias Id.
- A. gairdneri* THOS (1916) Western Siam.