

Article XIV.—THE GENERIC NAME CERCOPITHECUS.

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For nearly a century and a half the genus *Cercopithecus* has been employed by all mammalogists for the group of African Monkeys known by the popular name of Guenon, and Erxleben, 1777, is usually given as the author of the generic term. On investigating the literature of this name, it would seem we must go farther back into the past than Erxleben, or even the twelfth edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' to learn that *Cercopithecus* when first employed as a genus had an American monkey for its type, and that no Guenon was included in it.

Distasteful as it is to the writer thus to overthrow long established custom, and restore *Cercopithecus* to its proper species, thus creating temporarily some confusion in two groups of the Primates, one of which is the largest known, no choice in the matter is left to him for the facts are too plain for any doubt to remain. These facts are as follows. Brisson in his 'Regnum Animale,' 1762, employed the genus SIMIÆ for all the monkeys known to him, but divided them into three subgeneric groups as follows: SIMIA with SIMIA SYLVESTRIS, the Orang-utan, and *S. ceylonica*, a *Nycticebus*. The second subgenus is *Simia cynocephala*! with *S. cynocephala* an African baboon, and *S. cynocephala ceylonica*, also a *Nycticebus*. The third subgenus is *Papio*, with a single species, Le Babouin, probably *Simia cynocephala* Linnæus. The fourth subgenus is *Cercopithecus*, divided into two sections, "Stirps" IV, containing all the American monkeys known to him, and also some Old World species of different genera, and "Stirps" V, with three species, the first probably a *Papio*, and the next a *Pithecus*, the other *Simia sylvestris* Linn. There was no intention of making these "Stirps" genera or employing them as such, but they were used in the same way that subgeneric divisions are at the present time.

A year after Brisson's work was published, viz., 1763, Gronovius published his work 'Zoophylacium Gronovianum,' and on page 5 of the *Quadrupeda* he employs Brisson's subgenus *Cercopithecus* as a genus, citing it as "Stirps IV" of Brisson's work, naming as his first species, the "little black monkey" of Edwards's 'Natural History,' and giving the number of the colored plate 196. This is a very recognizable figure of the *Simia midas* Linnæus. Therefore, reluctant as we may be to accept the change, the Tamarins, or at least certain species of them, will have to be hereafter included in the genus *Cercopithecus*, which term was borne for so long a period by the Guenons. Gronovius names only one other form for *Cer-*

copithecus, the No. 6 of Linnæus' work, *Simia faunus*, which is quite undeterminable, thus leaving the *Simia midas* Linn., as the type. The generic term next in order to substitute for *Cercopithecus*, is *Lasiopyga* Illiger (Prodromus Systema Mammalium et Avium, 1811, p. 68), with *Simia nictitans* Linnæus as its type, and in this genus the Guenons must henceforth be included.