

of gestation was 60 days—practically the same as that of a Side-Striped Jackal.”
—Haagner.

“The young are born in burrows during the rains (December to April). Period of gestation, about 70 days. Their breeding habits appear to resemble those of jackals.”—Wilhelm.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES.—In build *Otocyon* resembles more a small jackal than an ordinary fox, the relationship of *Otocyon* to *Canis adustus* being to some extent comparable with that of *Proteles* to *Hyæna*.

The longish hair on the shoulders and upper back has a slight tendency to fall loosely on either side, leaving a centre parting—somewhat as in *Proteles*, although much less noticeably. The tail is less woolly than in *Vulpes chama* or *Canis mesomelas*, the brush being comparatively limp like that of *Canis adustus*. Towards the end of the hot season the fur becomes rather ragged and is often clogged with burrs and grass seeds, for which reason karrosses are best when made from winter skins.

Weight (of *O. virgatus*), ♂ 8½ lb., ♀ 6½ lb. (Loring and Mearns).
Shoulder height, 35–40 cm. (Wilhelm).

The Typical Foxes

Vulpes

Vulpes Oken, 1816, Lehr. Naturg. 3, pt. 2, pp. 1033–1034; genotype, *V. vulpes* Linnæus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, p. 40. The European Fox from Scandinavia.

South African Silver Fox—Silwerjakkals

Vulpes (Cynalopex)¹ chama A. Smith

VULPES CHAMA.

Canis chama A. Smith, 1834, S. Afr. Quart. Journ., ii, p. 89.

Type (in the South African Museum) from Little Namaqualand.

NATIVE NAMES:

PERSONALLY COLLECTED

Herero: *Ombánji-ururápa*.

Ovambo: *Ombánji-kalulúnga, Karurúnga*.

Ovadirico, Ovacuangari: *Mbánzi-chángwáy*.

Bechuana: *Thóšě, Thlóšě, Khanína* (Gobabis Dist.).²

Nama Hottentot, Berg Damara, Naron Bushman: *!Khamab*,³

Hei||kum Bushman: *!Khamagirib*.

||K'au||en Bushman, !Kung Bushman: *≠Gu*.

¹ *Cynalopex* Ham.-Smith, 1839, Jardine's Nat. Libr. Mamm., ix, pp. 222–232, pls. xvi–xviii; genotype *C. corsac* Linnæus, 1768, Syst. Nat., iii, append., p. 223: The Corsac Fox from 'the great plains' between the Jaco and Irtis Rivers (Russia).

² Probably from a borrowed source.

³ The 'Ermine' of Krönlein's list.

OTHER SOURCES

Bechuana: *Losi* (Zukowsky); *Lesia* (England).
 Nama Hottentot: *||Ab* (Bleek). *T'comma* (Grant).
 Naron Bushman: *||A:ba* (Bleek).
||K'au||en Bushman: *!U*, *||Nwoi* (Bleek).
!Kung Bushman: *Hei* (Zukowsky).
/Nu||en Bushman: *||Nautsha* (Bleek).
/Kam-kalke Bushman: *!Gwi:ten* (Bleek).

DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.—This Fox has a wide distribution through South-West Africa except in the north of Grootfontein District, the Caprivi, and perhaps the coastal edge of the Namib.

It does not seem to occur in the Okavango Valley—crossing neither that river nor the Zambesi.

“It was not observed, and is of doubtful occurrence in the Hukweveld (Central Caprivi) and the Okavango Flood Region.”—Wilhelm.

In Grootfontein District the Silver Fox extends at least as far north as Karakuwisa (at which place the skins of *Vulpes*, *Otocyon* and *Proteles* are used by the *!Kung* Bushmen for making into caps).

“It is comparatively scarce in the Omaheke and the Kaukaveld.”—Wilhelm.

It also occurs in Ovamboland, although appearing to be scarcer than *Otocyon*.

Judging from trade skins brought into Namutoni by *Hei||kum* Bushmen, *Vulpes chama* is not uncommon in the Etosha Pan Region.

It is generally plentiful in the Kaokoveld—as far north as the Cunene. Considerable numbers were trapped around Otjitundua.

“Obtained at Otjikuara and Kaoko-Otavi but not in large quantities.”—Steinhardt.

Although widely distributed in Damaraland and Great Namaqualand *Vulpes* appears to be rather less numerous than *Otocyon* around Berseba and elsewhere. It is comparatively plentiful in Gobabis District, particularly over the eastern sand-plains.

Several skulls were picked up near the Orange River between Upington and the Augrabies Falls.

“Very common in Little Namaqualand.”—Grant.

The Silver Fox is said to extend into the south and south-western portions of Angola.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.—The range of *Vulpes chama* is restricted to Southern Africa, south of the Zambesi—where its headquarters are the western and west-central sand-plains.

In the Cape Province this fox has been recorded from the neighbourhood of Cape Town (where, according to Sclater, it is not common), Caledon, Beaufort West, Grahamstown (Sclater), Henning Siding (Kaffrarian Museum), and Conway (Albany Museum).

"Found in the open country of the Eastern Karroo, but comparatively rare."—Hewitt.

Beyond the Orange River it ranges from the Natal Border ("Absent in Natal"—Warren) through the Orange Free State, Griqualand West (Kimberley, McGregor Museum), Gordonia, Bechuanaland (as far north as Lake Ngami on the west), the Transvaal, and possibly the south-western portion of Southern Rhodesia.

"It extends eastwards as far as the uplands of Natal."—Sclater.

"Found across the Orange Free State to Natal."—S. Hamilton.

"It occurs all over the Transvaal."—Haagner.

HABITS.—The South African Silver Fox is nocturnal, occasionally crepuscular, and goes about singly or in pairs. It prefers the more open sand-plains or scrub-dotted karroo-veld, and concentrates about the bases of kopjes or stony ridges provided that the surroundings afford suitable bush or rock cover under which to lie up by day. Forests are never entered. It is wary and, when pursued, turns and doubles very quickly. When running at full speed across country the body seems almost to touch the ground, its motion being undulating and somewhat similar to that of a large mongoose. This fox is said to carry very little scent, and in consequence is difficult to course with hounds. It also appears to be less easily caught by natives with dogs than *Otocyon*, as it invariably attempts to go to earth in the nearest burrow when put up. An individual was once trapped in a mierkat (*Gynictis*) warren, the openings of which were so small that it seemed incredible for an animal of its size to have entered.

"They frequent the more open country, and sleep during the day in dry river-beds and near the stony kopjes on the flats. They are very wary and when disturbed usually get up out of range. Individuals were trapped at night in their sleeping-places or near mierkat burrows, where possibly they were on the look-out for a late straggler."—Grant.

The 'bark' of *Vulpes chama* may be compared with that of the European Fox, but is of less volume. Except on very still nights, it can only be heard from a comparatively short distance. Its bark has little resemblance to the call of *Otocyon*.

"Its cry is a yapping ('gellendes') bark, followed by a short snarl similar to that of *Otocyon*. It never howls."—Wilhelm.

Food: very largely insects—white-ants, locusts, beetles, etc.; also gerbils and other small field rodents, the nestlings and eggs of ground-nesting birds, lizards, wild fruits, berries, and perhaps certain roots and tubers. This fox may be attracted to well hidden traps baited with dead gerbils or small pieces of meat, but only if the bait is quite fresh. It does not interfere with stock and is not suspected of raiding poultry yards. FitzSimons records that a tame individual once in his possession showed no disposition to attack adult fowls, although, on one occasion, it seized a newly-hatched chicken.

Although without the length or thickness of fur of the Palæarctic species, South African Silver Fox skins fetch moderately high prices; in karrosses,

however, they do not seem to wear so well as the skins of cats and jackals, being liable to lose the longer whitish hairs which give the fur its silvery appearance.

"A Sand-Fox (*C. rüppelli*) lived in the London Zoo for nearly 6½ years. An American Red Fox (*Vulpes fulva*) lived there for just over 12 years."—Flower.

BREEDING HABITS.—A female, which, judging by the enlarged mammæ, was suckling cubs, was trapped at the entrance of a small burrow in open sandy country near Berseba on September 12th.

According to FitzSimons, a litter is usually produced at the side of or under a stunted shrub on the open veld; but I suspect that, like other foxes, *Vulpes chama* habitually breeds in burrows.

"Gestation period of Silver Fox (melanistic form of Common Red Fox) is 51-52 days."—A. P. Millard.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES.—"No. 13 (Coll. No. 3053, from Otjitundua) is very remarkably redder than usual, with reddish leg-patches and a reddish tail; but it comes from the same locality as the ordinary greyer specimens, and is no doubt merely an individual aberration."—Thomas.

The African Hunting Dog

Lycaon

Lycaon Brookes, 1827, in Griffith's Cuvier's Anim. Kingd., V, p. 151; genotype *L. pictus* Temminck, 1820, Ann. Gen. Sci. Phys., III, p. 54. The African Wild Dog from Mozambique.

Cape Hunting Dog—Wildehond

Lycaon pictus Temminck

LYCAON PICTUS PICTUS.

Hyæna picta Temminck, 1820, Ann. Gen. Sci. Phys., III, p. 54.

Type (in the Leyden Museum?) from Mozambique.

LYCAON PICTUS VENATICUS.

Hyæna venatica Burchell, 1822, Travels, I, p. 456.

Type (not in existence) from the Cape.

LYCAON PICTUS ZULUENSIS.

Lycaon pictus Zuluensis Thomas, 1904, Ann. Mag. N.H. (7), XIV, p. 98.

Type (in the British Museum) from the Itala Mts., Zululand.