

hos (probably *Maropus eugenii*, Desm.) as the first Macropod which so far is known to have revealed itself to European eyes, for the recently published investigations of Professor Heeres¹ show that, so long ago as 1629, Commodore Pelsaert—whose ship, the “Batavia”, was wrecked on one of the islands in June of that year—had observed and noted the pouched character, and the mammary foetus of the wallaby in question. He says, “We found in these islands large numbers of a species of cats, which are very strange creatures; they are about the size of a hare, their head resembling the head of a civet-cat; the fore paws are very short, about the length of a finger, on which the animal has five small nails or fingers, resembling those of a monkey’s fore paw. Its two hind legs, on the contrary, are upwards of half an ell in length, and it walks on these only, on the flat of the heavy part of the leg, so that it does not run fast. Its tail is very long, like that of a long-tailed monkey; if it eats, it sits on its hind legs, and clutches its food with its fore paws, just like a squirrel or monkey. Their manner of generation or procreation is exceedingly strange and highly worth observing. Below the belly the female carries a pouch, into which you may put your hand; inside this pouch are her nipples, and we have found that the young ones grow up in this pouch with the nipples in their mouths. We have seen some young ones lying there, which were only the size of a bean, though at the same time perfectly proportioned, so that it seems certain that they grew there out of the nipples of the mammae, from which they draw their food, until they are grown up and are able to walk. Still, they keep creeping into the pouch even when they have become very large, and the dam runs off with them when they are hunted” (p. 61). The much less satisfactory observations of Vlaming and Dampier on West Australian wallabies, belong to the last decade of the seventeenth century.

III. Personal-Notizen.

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¹ “The Part borne by the Dutch in the Discovery of Australia, 1606—1765. By J. E. Heeres, LL.D., Professor at the Dutch Colonial Institute, Delft.” Published by the Royal Dutch Geographical Society in commemoration of the XXVth anniversary of its foundation. Leiden (1899).



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