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Article/Chapter Title: Descriptions of *Mus bursarius* and *Tubularia magnifica*; from drawings communicated by Major-General Thomas Davies, F.R.S. & L.S

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XXI. *Descriptions of the Mus Bursarius and Tubularia Magnifica; from Drawings communicated by Major-General Thomas Davies, F.R.S. & L.S. By George Shaw, M.D. F.R.S. V.P.L.S.*

Read June 4, 1799.

THE *Mus bursarius* belongs to a particular division in the genus, containing such species as are furnished with cheek-pouches for the temporary reception of their food. It seems not to have been yet described, or at least not so distinctly as to be easily ascertained. It approaches however to one or two species mentioned by Dr. Pallas, Mr. Pennant, and others; but differs in size, being much larger, as well as in the appearance of the fore-feet, which have claws differently formed from any of the pouched species hitherto described.

In order to secure its knowledge among Naturalists, it may be proper to form for it a specific character, viz.

Mus cinereus, caudâ tereti brevi subnudâ, genis faccatis, unguibus palmarum maximis fossoriis.

Ash-coloured rat, with short round nearly naked tail, pouched cheeks, and the claws of the fore-feet very large, formed for burrowing in the ground.

The cheek-pouches are far larger in proportion to the animal than in any other of this tribe, and therefore have given occasion for the specific name.

This quadruped was taken by some Indian hunters in the upper parts of Interior Canada, and sent down to Quebec. It is now in the possession of Governor Prescott.

TAB. VIII. exhibits the *Mus bursarius* of its natural size.

THE *Tubularia magnifica* must be considered as by far the largest species of its genus yet discovered. It is found in various parts of the coast of Jamaica, adhering to the rocks. It is very shy, and on being approached instantly recedes within its elastic tube, which on a farther alarm also retires into the rock, and specimens can be obtained only by breaking off such parts of the stone as contain them. These, being put into tubs of sea-water, may be kept for months in perfect order; and from one of them so preserved this drawing was made.

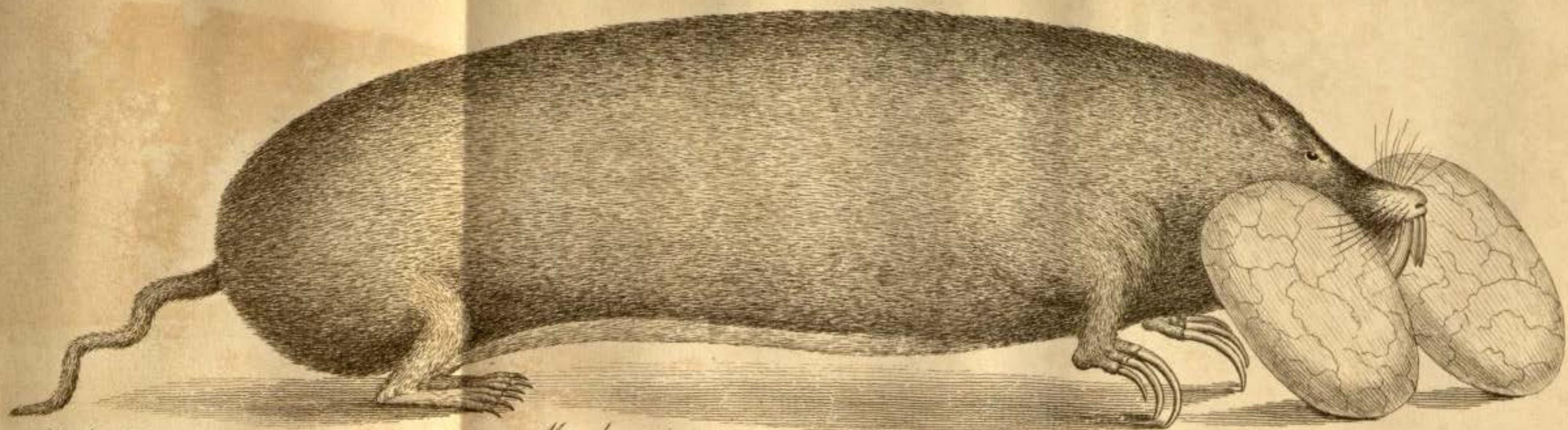
The specific character may be thus given:

TUBULARIA *tubo simplici albido, tentaculis numerosissimis albo rubroque variatis.*

Tubularia with a simple whitish tube, and very numerous tentacula variegated with red and white.

It is necessary to observe, that, in the form of its body, at least as far as can be judged from the part represented in the back view of the animal, it seems to make an approach to the genus *Amphitrite*, and may be considered as in some degree connecting these two genera.

It may perhaps be doubted whether some of the smaller figures, supposed to be the young animals, may not in reality belong to some species of *Actinia*.



J. Davies, delin. 1799

Mus bursarius



J. Davis delin. 1799

Tubularia magnifica

TAB. IX. Fig. 1. shews the back of the *Tubularia magnifica*, when expanded, of its natural size.

2. The front.
3. The animal expanding from the tube.
4. The same retreating when disturbed.
5. Entirely withdrawn into the tube.
6. Supposed young ones of the same species.