

or whether it is peculiar to that from California, I treated some from the Oural Mountains in the same manner, and found that most, but not all of the lead-colored scales are oxydized and assume yellow, orange and blue colors. This reaction seems therefore to be an important one to distinguish Sisserskite from Newjanskite. It is very likely, too, that we find in nature but two combinations of Iridium and Osmium, Ir Os and Ir Os₄ and that Ir Os₃ is Ir Os₄ mixed with some Ir Os, as it is very difficult to distinguish their color.

On Strontiano-calcite, a New Mineral.

By DR. F. A. GENTH.

Primitive form an obtuse rhombohedron (as it seems to show cleavage parallel to the planes of a rhombohedron, similar to that of calcite); the secondary forms which I observed were the second acute rhombohedron (analogous to that of calcite of 65° 56') and its corresponding scalene-dodecahedron. Crystals microscopic and not very distinct; in globular masses formed by an aggregate of rhombohedrons, every globule terminating in the above-mentioned acute rhombohedron. Fracture uneven. H. = 3.5. Sp. gr. = ?

Colorless and transparent at the points of the aggregations, which are white and translucent. The colorless crystals have a vitreous, the white ones a somewhat pearly lustre.

When heated before the blowpipe it gives out a brilliant light, imparts to the flame a slight crimson color, and is rendered caustic. Easily soluble in acids with disengagement of carbonic acid. The solution gives a white precipitate with sulphate of lime, but not with sulphate of strontia; it therefore contains strontia. After, (in another quantity of the solution,) strontia was precipitated with sulphate of potash, the addition of oxalate of ammonia produced a precipitate of oxalate of lime.

The quantities I had at my disposal were too small to admit of a quantitative analysis, but I presume from the quantities, precipitated with sulphate of potash and oxalate of ammonia, that lime and strontia are contained in Strontiano-calcite in about equal proportions.

The specimen was presented to me by William Wagner, Esq., who collected it in the neighborhood of Girgenti in Sicily, where it, according to his statement, is of rare occurrence and associated with celestine and sulphur.

In the chemico-mineralogical system it is to be placed between Dufrenoy's Dreelite and Plumbocalcite.

Of the carbonates which have isomorphous bases, of carbonate of lime only, two forms, rhombohedron and rhombic prism, have been observed; of carbonate of lead, strontia and baryta, only the rhombic form is known; but when in combination with carbonate of lime, they all likewise crystallize in the rhombohedral form, thus forming Plumbo-calcite, Strontiano-calcite and Dreelite. It is very likely, that we one of these days will meet with rhombohedral forms of the pure carbonates of lead, strontia and baryta.

The Committee on a paper by Messrs. Audubon and Bachman, read this evening by special permission, describing a new species of North American Fox, reported in favor of publication:

Description of a new North American Fox. Genus Vulpes, Cuv.

By AUDUBON AND BACHMAN.

VULPES UTAH.

V. corpore grandiore, pilis velleris longioribus nec non gracilioribus quam in V. fulvo, cauda magna cylindracea.

Specific characters.—Larger than *Vulpes fulvis*; fur longer and finer than in that species; tail large and cylindrical.

1852

Dimensions.

	Feet.	Inches.
From point of nose to root of tail,	2	8
Tail, (vertebræ,)	1	4
" (to end of hair,)	1	8
Circumference of tail, (broadest part,)	1	8
From shoulder to fore-feet,	1	5
From rump to hind-feet,	1	6
Height of ears, (posteriorly,)		4
From point of nose to eye,		3½
Longest hairs on the brush,		5
" on the body,		3

Description.—Claws slightly arched, compressed, channelled beneath, horn color; hair, of two kinds, first, a coarse and long hair covering the fur beneath it; second, a dense and very soft fine fur, composed of hairs that are straight, but crumpled and wavy, as in the silver gray fox. Fur plumbeous at the roots, gradually becoming dark brown towards the tips in those parts of the body which are dark colored on the surface; in those parts which are white, the fur is white from the roots, and on no part of the animal does it present any annulations.

The long hairs are dark-brown from the roots, yellowish-white near the middle of their length, and are tipped with black.

On the under surface the hairs are principally white their whole extent, with a few black ones intermixed; the fur on the tail is rather less fine and more woolly than on the body.

Feet covered with soft hair reaching beyond the toes; on the forehead the hair is rather coarse and short, with fine fur beneath. From this intermixture of hairs the animal is greyish-white on the head, dark-brown on the neck, grayish-brown on the dorsal line and on the sides; the throat, under surface of the body, insides of legs, and feet are black.

The tail is irregularly banded with dark brown and dull white, the tip white for about three inches.

Another Specimen.—Nose, both surfaces of the legs, and behind the ears, dark reddish-brown; whiskers black; under side of neck, and a line on the belly, liver brown. Fur on the back very fine, and dark ashy-gray from the roots; the longer hairs on the back are black at the roots, and are broadly tipped with white; fur on the sides, cinereous at the roots, and yellowish-white from thence to the end.

There is a reddish tinge on the neck, extending to the shoulders; sides of the face grizzly-brown; the hair on the tail is irregularly clouded with brown and dull white, and is lightest on the under surface.

This animal was first noticed, by Lewis and Clarke, as the large red fox of the plains, (vol. 2, p. 168,) and was referred to by us in the first volume of the Quadrupeds of North America, p. 51, where we described it from a hunter's skin.

Having obtained a beautiful specimen from Captain Rhett, of the United States Army, we now propose for it the name of *Vulpes Utah*, as it is, so far as our information extends, chiefly found in the Utah territory, although it probably ranges considerably north of the Great Salt Lake.

The habits of this beautiful fox are similar to those of the Red Fox, and it runs into many varieties of color.

Captain Rhett informed us that he killed the specimen, kindly presented to us by him, near Fort Larimer.

Several specimens of *Vulpes Utah* have been received at the Smithsonian Institution, and it will probably soon be well known.

The Committee to which was referred a paper by Dr. Le Conte, entitled "Synopsis of the species of *Pterostichus*," reported in favor of publication in the Journal.

ELECTION.

Mr. Joseph Lea and Dr. William H. Tingley, both of Philadelphia, were elected *Members* of the Academy.