

CHAPTER XVII.

Ordo CARNIVORA.

CANIDÆ.

The Canidæ are abundantly represented among the bones from Anau; nevertheless their determination is not always easy. The animal of which we find the best-preserved bones, both complete skulls and bones of the trunk and of the extremities, is the fox.

Canis vulpes Linnæus, *Vulpes montana* (?) Pearson. (See plate 71, figs. 3-13.)

We find in the Anau kurgan two skulls in a very perfect state of preservation and 12 bones of the extremities as well as cervical vertebræ. Thus we can make an exact determination of this animal.

As the measurements of the following list will show, the foxes of Anau were not as large as those of Germany, but are closely similar to a recent fox from Tor on the Red Sea, whose skull is preserved in the Museum at Bern. The neolithic fox skull of the Swiss pile-dwellings of Schaffis is also smaller and nearly agrees with another skull from Sinai. The size of these fox skulls must not be taken as indicating a difference in species, however, for it is quite possibly attributable to a difference of age and sex.

Pearson,* in describing his *Vulpes montana*, which probably occurs also in Turkestan, was not able to show any osteological difference between it and the common fox; the only difference being in the skin. Thus we may assume, though without possibility of confirmation, that we have here also the mountain fox (*Vulpes montana* Pearson), which is surely only a variety of the common fox. The bones here shown are certainly not those of an interloper of modern times, as one might suppose from the perfect state of their preservation. They are, to judge from the structure of the bone material, as old as the other bones of the

Table of dimensions (in millimeters.)

Extremity bones,	Femora.		Tibia,	Radius,
	-6 feet, No. 392.	+26 feet, No. 871.	-6 feet, No. 389.	+23 feet, No. 56b.
Length.....	112	126	123	113
Width of proximal end.....	21	24	19	14
Diameter of proximal end.....	7	8	21	20
Width of median part.....	6	7	5	6
Diameter of median part.....	5	6	6	7
Width of distal end.....	17	18	12	18
Diameter of distal end.....	18	21	8	13

*On the *Canis vulpes montana*, Bengal, Journal Asiat. Soc., IV, 1835, p. 324.