

large spots of irregular figures mixed throughout with black.

The fore part of the head is covered with large, beautiful scales; the jaws bordered with yellow; the forehead marked with a black marbled streak, and the eyes handsome and lively.

But the *Gerenda* of the East Indies is the most honoured and esteemed. To this animal, which is finely spotted with various colours, the natives of Calicut pay divine honours; and while their deity lies coiled up, which is its most usual posture, the people fall upon their faces before it with serious adoration.

The *African Gerenda* nearly resembles the foregoing, being only somewhat larger, and it is worshipped in the same manner by the inhabitants of the coasts of Mosambique.

Such, however, are nearly the whole of this race of animals which may be considered as inoffensive; for when we turn to the larger tribe, even of this species, we find there is nothing but danger to be apprehended. Besides which, this formidable class have something frightful in their colour, as well as their size and form. They want that vivid hue, with which the savages are so much pleased in the lesser kinds. They are all found of a dusky colour, with  
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