

*marsupialis* and the opossum ; they have both, according to Linnæus, the pouch, the hind toes of their hind feet have no claws, are both natives of America, and only differ in this respect, by the first having eight paps, and the second only two, and the spot above the eyes more pale. These characteristics cannot be sufficient to distinguish them as distinct species ; for the first can scarcely be called a difference ; nor can any thing be established as fixed or certain, in regard to the order and the number of the paps, since they vary in the same species of most animals.

From this examination, which we have made with strict impartiality, it appears, that the *philandre, opossum, seu carigueya Brasiliensis*, and the *philander orientalis maximus* of Seba ; those of M. Brisson, and the *marsupialis* and *opossum* of Linnæus are all of them the same animal, which is our opossum whose natural climate is South America ; and who was never seen in the East Indies, but when transported thither. Upon this subject, some uncertainty still remains in regard to the *taïibi*, which Marcgrave does not mention as an animal different from the *carigueya*, but which Johnston, Seba, Klein, Linnæus, and Brisson, have presented as distinct from the preceding. In  
 Marcgrave