Dueñas; Lanquin (Godman & Salvin, Mus. Brit.); Costa Rica (Frantzius), Tucurrique (Aréé, Mus. Brit.).—South America to the Rio Negro and Peru.

The Kinkajou is a native of the northern part of the Neotropical Region, finding its southern boundary on the Rio Negro of Brazil, according to Humboldt, and in the northern provinces of Peru, where it was obtained by Tschudi. In Central America it appears to be found from the Central States of Mexico southwards. Messrs. Godman and Salvin remark that, "although by no means rare in Guatemala, the Micoleon is not often seen. One we met with was feeding on fruit in a tree overhanging the river of Lanquin in Vera Paz, and, being wounded, swam the stream without difficulty, but was secured by an Indian who plunged in in pursuit. It is an animal easily tamed, living in captivity on oranges and bananas, which it eats with great avidity. Our specimens were obtained at various altitudes up to 4000 or 5000 feet."

Two centuries ago the Kinkajou was similarly tamed in Central America, as appears from Dampier's quaint account of the "Squash," which he thus describes:—"The Squash is a four-footed Beast, bigger than a Cat: Its Head is much like a Foxes, with short Ears and a long Nose. It has pretty short Legs, and sharp Claws, by which it will run up Trees like a Cat. The Skin is covered with short fine yellowish Hair. The Flesh of it is good, sweet, wholesome meat. We commonly skin and roast it; and then we call it Pig; and I think it eats as well. It feeds on nothing but good Fruit; therefore we find them most among the Sapadillo-Trees; This Creature never rambles very far; and being taken young, will become as tame as a Dog, and be as roguish as a Monkey."

In Costa Rica, where it is termed Martilla or Little Marten, Dr. v. Frantzius tells us that the Kinkajou is not uncommonly to be found in holes in trees, where it lies concealed during the day, issuing forth at night in pursuit of small mammals and birds. Its fur is much valued; and skins are often brought to market, but always in an imperfect state.

Fam. IV. MUSTELIDÆ.

1. MUSTELA.

Mustela, Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 66 (1776).

In America the restricted genus Mustela is essentially a Nearctic type; but one species, at least, ranges far into the southern continent. The characters of the genus are too well known to require repetition; and it will be sufficient here to state my reasons for retaining the Linnean name for the present group, instead of Putorius, which is most in favour with American writers. The latter word is not used by Cuvier binomially, but merely to mark a sous-genre*; and Nilsson, who appears to have been the first

* Dampier's 'Voyages,' ii. p. 59.
† 'Règne Animal,' i. p. 147 (1817).