Full details of the external and osteological characters of these species will be found in Dr. Coues's 'Fur-bearing Animals,' where are also quoted the observations of Dr. Wyman, Dr. Warren, and M. Chatin on the anatomy and physiology of the anal glands and secretion which have made the name of Skunk a by-word.

1. Mephitis mephitaica.

*Viverra mephitaica*, Schreber, Säugeth. iii. p. 444, pl. cxxi. (1778, ex Linnaeus, ed. x.)¹.

*Viverra mephitaica*, Shaw, Mus. Lever. p. 171 (1792)².


? *Mephitis bicolor*, Dugès, La Nat. i. p. 137 (nec Gray)¹⁵.

Zorrillo of Guatemalans.

**Hab.** NORTH AMERICA, from Hudson Bay southwards⁶.—**MEXICO** (Sallé, Mus. Brit.), Matamoras (Couch¹⁴), San Mateo (Deppe, Mus. Berol.), Oaxaca (Deppe, Mus. Brit.), Guanajuato ? (Dugès¹⁵); **GUATEMALA** (Godman & Salvin).

The observations of American zoologists have shown the enormous amount of variation in colour to which the Common Skunk is liable, not only in individuals inhabiting the same locality, but even, as witnessed by Audubon and by Mr. Allen⁴, in members of the same litter. Dr. Coues remarks that there is a tendency to an increase of white in the markings of Skunks from the eastern and middle States of the Union, while it is reduced to a minimum in those of the Gulf States⁶. In the Mexican specimens on which Lichtenstein founded his *M. vittata*⁷ the white dorsal stripes are narrow and interrupted in front; but no two specimens that I have seen are exactly alike, and I have no hesitation in regarding it merely as a dark form of *M. mephitaica*. Dr. Coues appears to think that *M. vittata* might be the same as *M. macrura*⁸; but in this he has probably been misled by Lichtenstein's figure, in which the tail is represented much too long. In one of the specimens in the British Museum the lateral stripes are almost obsolete. In a drawing by Mrs. Salvin of a specimen in the Museum of Guatemala the wide stripes are broad, and there appears to be no frontal stripe or nuchal area of that colour. This sketch is the only positive evidence which I have hitherto been able to obtain of the extension of the range of *M. mephitaica* into Guatemala, where it is probably not so common as *Conopatus mapurito*. It is not represented in Messrs. Godman and Salvin's collections; and the following notes, supplied to **Biol. Cent.-Amer.**, Mamm. Vol. 1, Feb. 1880.