animal bears a superficial resemblance to *Mephitis mephitis*, but will at once be recognized by the generic characters pointed out above.

1. *Conepatus mapurito*.


*Mephitis leuconota*, Lichtenstein, Darst. neu. Sängeth. pl. xlv. fig. 1 (1834, descr. orig.) 5.


*Thiosmus nasutus*, Dugès, La Nat. i. p. 137 11.


*Zorro hediando* of Costa-Ricans.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, Texas 4.—MEXICO, Río Alvarado, Chico (*Deppe, Mus. Berol.* 5 6), Mexico (*de Saussure* 13), Guanajuato (*Dugès* 11); GUATEMALA (*Godman & Salvin*); COSTA RICA (*Frantzius* 15).—SOUTH AMERICA to PATAGONIA?

The gradations of colour shown by the South-American Skunks are so numerous, and apparently so little connected with geographical distribution, that I must follow the late Dr. Gray 12 and Dr. Elliott Coues 4 in regarding them, provisionally at least, as varieties of one very variable species. The most usual type in Central America appears to be the white-backed, to various modifications of which the names *leuconota*, *mesoleuca*, *nasuta*, and *intermedia* have been applied; but the form in which the white is more or less divided into lateral stripes also occurs. I have been unable to identify in the British Museum the Guatemalan specimen to which Mr. Tomes gave the provisional name of *Mephitis longicaudata* 14; but from his description I believe it to have been an example of the present species, in which the tail was either unusually long or had been unduly stretched in preservation. A drawing by Mrs. Salvin of one of the Skunks in the Museum of Guatemala certainly represents *Conepatus mapurito*.

Dr. v. Frantzius met with the two-striped variety in Costa Rica, and identified it with the *Mephitis chilensis* of Geoffroy. He gives the following account of its habits, which appear to be much the same as those of the North-American species:—“Like its congeners the Chilian Skunk is a nocturnal animal, remaining hidden about human habitations by day, and going forth at night to plunder. As it is peculiarly destructive to poultry, the Costa-Ricans call this animal *Zorro* (Fox), or, to distinguish it from the Opossum, *Zorro hediando*, or Stinking-Fox. Often it is surprised in its robberies by dogs; and Skunks thus killed are not uncommonly seen lying in the streets of the