Mr. J. A. Allen and by Dr. Coues, belong to this well-marked species; and there can be little doubt that Dr. v. Frantzius was in error in his determination of Lutra brasilienis and L. canadensis in Costa Rica. Of the former he says that the headless and footless skins brought to the markets appeared to belong to that species, and that a specimen sent to the Dresden Museum by Herr Schröter had been determined by Professor Reichenbach. The skins may be dismissed as quite inadequate evidence; and there would seem to be some mistake about the Dresden example, for I could find no specimen of L. brasilienis when I visited that collection; and the present Director, Dr. A. B. Meyer, informs me that the only specimens which the Museum received from Herr Schröter were Reptiles. As to L. canadensis, Dr. v. Frantzius says that a Costa Rican Otter in the collection of Dr. Joos, of Schaffhausen, agreed with the North-American species in its skull and in its naked muffle, which "ran up in a pointed angle." This last character is diagnostic of L. felina, and not of L. canadensis, in which the muffle is an irregular pentagon, which has been aptly compared to the shape of the ace of clubs.

Molina’s Otter has a wide range on the western slope of both the Americas, from Chili, where it was first described, northwards. It is still somewhat uncertain to what latitude its northern range attains: specimens obtained from the MM. Verreaux by the British Museum are labelled "Kamtschatka"; and this is partially confirmed by Dr. Coues, who doubtfully refers skulls from Alaska to this species.

Messrs. Godman and Salvin give me the following account of their observations on this animal in Guatemala:—"Otters are pretty generally distributed in suitable places throughout the country. The first occasion on which we met with them was near Santana Mixtan, a village in the Pacific-coast region, where the specimen called Lutra chilensis by Mr. Tomes was shot in a stagnant lagoon in the forest. We afterwards found Otters not uncommon in the river of Coban, close to the town, a favourite resort being some pools near the stream. We also met with them in the river of Copan, near the celebrated Indian ruins. Having crept through the curious tunnel of masonry which pierces the hill known as the ‘cerro de la ventana,’ we came to a high wall overhanging the river, in which several Otters were playing in a pool below us."

Fam. V. URSIDÆ.

1. URSUS.

Ursus, Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 69 (1766).

Two species of Bear are included in the fauna of our subregion, but appear to have been hitherto only found towards its northern extremity. These are the well-known Black or Cinnamon Bear of North America, and the dreaded "Grizzly" of the Rocky Mountains. Concerning the specific identity of both these animals, especially the latter, there has been not a little diversity of opinion.