

INTRODUCTION.

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AT the request of Messrs. Salvin and Godman, I have had great pleasure in putting together such remarks as are required to explain the Tables which our lamented friend the Author of this volume had drawn up shortly before his death for the better understanding of the Central-American Mammal-fauna. These tables were the only part of the proposed "Introduction" that Alston left behind him; but I think they serve to show fairly enough the views upon the subject which he held, and which, I believe, do not essentially differ from those which, under the circumstances of the case, it has been left for me to put forward as the result of his investigations.

The first of these Tables gives a complete list of the Mammals of Central America recognized in this Memoir and in the Appendix thereto*. The range of each species in the various countries comprised within the Central-American area is given in parallel columns, and also details as to its extension into North America on the one hand and into South America on the other.

* Since the Appendix was finished Mr. Forrer has sent to Messrs. Salvin and Godman another small collection from the State of Durango, of which Mr. Thomas has given an account in P. Z. S. 1882 (Nov. 14th). Two species of Rodents, of which examples were contained in this collection, are new to the Central-American Mammal-fauna—namely, *Sciurus aberti* and *Tamias asiaticus*, subsp. *quadrivittatus*. In another small collection, received from the same source still more recently, three examples of *Neotoma fuscipes*, Baird, another northern Rodent new to Mexico, occurred. But I have not thought it advisable to alter Alston's tables for the purpose of including these three species.