

## 2. *Mycetes villosus*. (Tab. I.)

*Mycetes villosus*, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xvi. p. 220 (1845, desc. orig.)<sup>1</sup>; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1872, p. 5<sup>2</sup>; Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, vii. p. 151<sup>3</sup>.

*Mono* of Guatemalans.

*Hab.* GUATEMALA, Vera-Paz (*Salvin & Godman, Mus. Brit.*<sup>2</sup>; *Mus. Lugd.*<sup>3</sup>).

A skin of the Guatemalan Howler, sent home by Messrs. Godman and Salvin, was at first identified at the British Museum with the Black Howler of South Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay, *Mycetes caraya* (Humboldt) = *M. niger* (Geoffr.). Mr. Sclater<sup>2</sup> showed that, as might have been expected, it was distinct from that southern form, and identified it with Gray's *M. villosus*<sup>1</sup>, a species founded on a single young example in bad condition preserved in the British Museum. This latter is labelled as from "Brazil;" but there seems to be no doubt that this locality is erroneous, and that Mr. Sclater was correct in his identification, which has since been accepted by Professor Schlegel<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately Messrs. Godman and Salvin's specimen is peculiar in having its frontal hairs directed *downwards* instead of upwards; and Mr. Sclater naturally pointed this out as a distinction from the southern Black Howler\*. But Professor Schlegel has clearly shown that this character cannot be depended on, not being found in other individuals from Guatemala, and varying also in other species of *Mycetes*<sup>3</sup>. Better distinctions are to be found in the long soft hair of *M. villosus*, and in the noteworthy fact that the female and young are quite black like the adult male, instead of being pale yellow like the corresponding age and sex of *M. niger*, which latter were formerly supposed to constitute a distinct species, *M. stramineus* (Geoffr.). In this similarity of the sexes the Guatemalan Howler rather resembles the Amazonian species, *M. belzebul* (Linn.), which, however, differs conspicuously in the rufous colour of its hands, feet, and tail.

This Howler is only known to inhabit the eastern and north-eastern portions of Guatemala; and for all that is recorded of its habits and distribution we are indebted to Mr. Salvin, who furnished the following account of it to Mr. Sclater's paper<sup>2</sup>:—

"The *Mycetes* of Guatemala is commonly known as the 'Mono.' It is abundant throughout the virgin forests of the eastern portion of the Republic, but is unknown in the forest-clad slopes which stretch towards the Pacific Ocean. In the former region it is found at various altitudes over a wide expanse of country. I have heard its cry on the shores of the Lake of Yzabal, and seen it at Quirigua in the valley of the River Motagua. All through the denser forests of the valley of the River Polochic it is very common, on the steep mountain-road which lies between the upland village of Purulá and S. Miguel-Tucuru, and especially in the wilderness of uninhabited forest which stretches from Teleman to the Lake of Yzabal. In the unbroken forest-country, which occupies the whole of the northern portion of Vera Paz from Coban and Cahabon to the confines of Peten, it is also abundant; for seldom

\* To add to the confusion, Mr. Sclater's cuts of the heads of the two species have been accidentally interchanged, that representing Mr. Salvin's specimen being named *M. caraya*, and *vice versa*.