

some doubt by the late Dr. Gray as *Eriodes frontatus*<sup>7</sup>, but afterwards regarded by him as a variety of *A. melanochir*<sup>11</sup>; and the richly coloured dark type was described by the same voluminous writer as *A. ornatus*<sup>11</sup>. Mr. Sclater and Professor Schlegel have united these nominal species; and a comparison of many specimens leaves little doubt of their identity. Their variation is not connected with geographical distribution, both the dark and the light variety occurring in all the States named above; and every gradation is to be found between the deepest-coloured *ornatus* and the whitest *melanochir*. As already pointed out, the best character by which the darker forms may be distinguished from the next species is the want of a distinct line of demarcation between the colours of the upper and lower parts, the tint of the flanks, whatever it may be, passing almost insensibly into that of the breast and belly in all the varieties.

Geoffroy's Spider-Monkey is a native of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama; and the Zoological Society have received it from the United States of Colombia. It is very abundant in Costa Rica, according to Dr. v. Frantzius, being found in the mountains up to an elevation of from six to seven thousand feet, as well as in the hot forests near the coast. In Nicaragua, as shown by the above-quoted localities, it is found on both the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts. Northward of this I have not been able to trace it; for the Spider-Monkeys of Guatemala and South Mexico belong, as I believe, to *A. vellerosus*.

In his interesting 'Naturalist in Nicaragua' (p. 117) the late Mr. Belt gave the following account of the habits of this species as observed in that State:—"The large yellowish-brown Spider-Monkey (*Ateles*) roams over the tops of the trees in bands of from ten to twenty. Sometimes they lay quiet till I was passing underneath, when, shaking a branch of the nispera tree [*Achras sapota*], they would send down a shower of the hard round fruit; but fortunately I was never struck by them. As soon as I looked up, they would commence yelping and barking, and putting on the most threatening gestures, breaking off pieces of branches and letting them fall, and shaking off more fruit, but never throwing any thing, simply letting it fall. Often, when on lower trees, they would hang from the branches, two or three together, holding on to each other and to the branch with their fore feet and long tail, while the hind feet hung down, all the time making threatening gestures and cries. Sometimes a female would be seen carrying a young one on its back, to which it clung with legs and tail, the mother making its way along the branches and leaping from tree to tree, apparently but little encumbered with its baby."

Mr. Salvin tells me that during a stay of a few hours at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on the 25th May 1873, he met with several of these Monkeys when strolling in the neighbourhood of the town. He had gone ashore with Captain Dow, and was walking up the course of a half-dry stream, when they came upon a troop of Monkeys which had come to a pool to drink, and were climbing about the low trees on the bank of the