

Of the adaptation of their structure to their habits, Mr. Dobson observes that their long narrow wings and their power of varying the spread of the interfemoral membrane gives them great advantages in quickly altering the direction of their flight. "Of all Bats the *Molossi* appear especially suited by their peculiar conformation for capturing the most rapidly flying insects, which no doubt form the greater portion of their food. Their large and very strong acutely tubercular teeth would enable them to crush with ease the hard armour of the larger Coleoptera"\*.

The genus *Molossus* is characterized by the union of the premaxillaries and consequent closeness of the upper incisors, as well as by the very narrow tragus and scarcely grooved upper lip. It is a purely Neotropical type, of which nine or ten species range from the River Plate to Mexico. Of these, the Central-American species are:—

1. *M. rufus*. Antitragus circular, as high as broad; incisors  $\frac{2}{2}$ , premolars  $\frac{1-1}{2-2}$ . Forearm 2".10. Fur short, deep brown, red-brown, or fulvous.
2. *M. nasutus*. Antitragus circular, as high as broad; incisors  $\frac{2}{4}$ , premolars  $\frac{2-2}{2-2}$ . Forearm 2". Fur moderately long, deep brown above, paler beneath.
3. *M. abrasus*. Antitragus semicordate, longer than high; incisors  $\frac{2}{4}$ , premolars  $\frac{2-2}{2-2}$ . Forearm 2".45. Fur short, intensely black above and below.

### 1. *Molossus rufus*.

*Molossus rufus*, Et. Geoffroy, Ann. du Mus. vi. p. 154 (1805, descr. orig.)<sup>1</sup>; Gervais, Exp. de Castelnau, Mamm. p. 58, t. xii. figs. 4, 4a<sup>2</sup>; Peters, Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1865, p. 575<sup>3</sup>; Dobson, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 709<sup>4</sup>; Cat. Chir. Brit. Mus. p. 410<sup>5</sup>.

*Molossus obscurus*, Ét. Geoffroy, Ann. du Mus. vi. p. 155 (1805, descr. orig.)<sup>6</sup>; Peters, Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1865, p. 575<sup>7</sup>.

*Molossus ursinus*, Spix, Sim. et Vesp. Bras. p. 59, t. xxv. fig. 4 (1823, descr. orig.)<sup>8</sup>.

*Dysopes velox* (Natterer), Temminck, Mon. de Mamm. i. p. 134 (1836, descr. orig.)<sup>9</sup>.

*Hab.* MEXICO (*Berkenbusch*, *Mus. Berol.*), Oaxaca (*Sallé*, *Mus. Brit.*<sup>5</sup>); GUATEMALA, Vera Paz (*Salvin*, *Mus. Brit.*<sup>5</sup>).—WEST INDIES<sup>5</sup>; ECUADOR<sup>5</sup>; GUIANA<sup>5</sup>; BRAZIL<sup>5</sup>; BOLIVIA<sup>5</sup>.

The Red Mastiff-Bat, as it has been called, was first named from specimens in the Paris Museum by the elder Geoffroy St.-Hilaire<sup>1</sup>; but, as Professor Peters observes, Spix's description<sup>8</sup> is the first that is recognizable. Gervais's figures of the skull and dentition of Geoffroy's type<sup>2</sup> show, however, that the species are identical; and his name may therefore be retained.

The range of *M. rufus* seems to extend throughout great part of the tropical regions of Central and South America. Along with the typical form, and also extending to the islands, is found a smaller race, which Geoffroy described as *M. obscurus*<sup>6</sup>, in which the fur between the humerus and forearm extends further over the wing-membrane, and

\* Cat. Chir. Brit. Mus. p. 403.