

species, "of which females alone appear to have been hitherto obtained"*. But Professor Peters has pointed out to me that this is a mistake, the type of *C. flavogularis* (= *C. senex*) being an adult male †, as is another specimen of *C. senex* in the Berlin Museum. It is possible, however, that Mr. Dobson is right, and that the peculiarities of *C. macmurtrii* are male characters which are only developed at particular seasons. But till this is shown to be the case it will be best to treat the species as distinct.

The type specimen is the only one hitherto recorded; but Dr. Peters informs me that the Berlin Museum has recently obtained a second, also a male, from Guatemala; and he has kindly sent me a beautifully finished drawing of its very remarkable physiognomy, from which our figure has been carefully copied.

18. DESMODUS.

Desmodus, Max. zu Wied, Beitr. Nat. Brasil. ii. p. 231 (1826).

This genus, with its close ally *Diphylla*, forms the group or subfamily Desmodontes of Peters and Dobson. So greatly do these genera differ from all other Bats in the structure of their alimentary system that they have been held by Professor Huxley and others to form a third primary division of the Order‡, equivalent to the fruit-eating and insectivorous sections. On the other hand, they agree closely with other Phyllostomidæ in the rest of their structure; and Professor Peters has pointed that the *Stenoderme* genera, as here arranged, show a gradual approach to their peculiar dentition.

In external appearance *Desmodus* is not strikingly different from the tailless *Stenoderme*s, the nose-leaf being small but distinct, and the interfemoral membrane reduced to a mere margin. The single pair of upper incisors are enormously large, and are shaped like canines; the four lower cutting-teeth are small; and the grinders, two above and three below, are narrow single-rooted premolars, true molars being absent. The œsophagus is much constricted; and the cardiac portion of the stomach is very strangely developed, being produced into a long tubular cæcum. All these peculiarities have evident connexion with the food of the animal, which, as will be seen below, appears to consist entirely of the blood of other vertebrates.

The only species now recognized is a large Bat, with a wing-expanse of about 15 inches and a forearm of about 2''·50; the fur is reddish-brown and the membranes dusky.

1. *Desmodus rufus*.

Vespertilio spectrum, Azara, Hist. Nat. Quad. Paraguay, ii. p. 273 (nec Linn.)¹.

Desmodus rufus, Max. zu Wied, Beitr. Nat. Brasil. ii. p. 232 (1826, descr. orig.), Abbild. pl. xvii.²;

Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 278³; Dobson, Cat. Chir. Brit. Mus. p. 547, pl. xxx. fig. 7⁴.

Desmodus d'orbignyi, Waterhouse, Zool. Voy. 'Beagle,' Mamm. p. 1, pl. i. (1839, descr. orig.)⁵.

* Cat. Chir. Brit. Mus. p. 543.

† Cf Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1854, p. 335; Abh. 1854, p. 88.

‡ *Hæmatophilina* (Waterhouse), Huxley, P. Z. S. 1865, p. 388.