

which was captured by Mr. Salvin in Guatemala, and obtained from that gentleman in 1864; and, through Dr. Peters's courtesy, I am enabled to copy the figure prepared to illustrate the work on the Chiroptera on which he has been so long engaged.

### Order III. INSECTIVORA.

This order is but scantily represented in the New World, two families only (Talpidæ and Soricidæ) being found there. Both are confined entirely to the Nearctic Region, with the exception of two genera of Soricidæ, which have extended their range as far as Guatemala and Costa Rica respectively. The total absence of Insectivores from the fauna of the Neotropic Region in general is a striking fact, but may reasonably be attributed to the competition of the numerous small insect-eating Edentates and Marsupials, whose range they thus overlap in Central America.

#### Fam. I. SORICIDÆ.

##### 1. SOREX.

*Sorex*, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. p. 73 (1766).

The American species of this very widely distributed genus have lately been divided by Dr. Elliott Coues\* into three sections, founded in part on the number of "unicuspids" in the upper jaw, between the large median incisors and the molars. In regard to the homologies of these teeth I have here adopted the views of Dr. E. Brandt†, which seem to me to be more satisfactory than any other that have hitherto been propounded. Dr. Coues's three subgenera are *Sorex* as restricted, *Microsorex*, and *Notiosorex*, the two last having been thus named in manuscript by Professor Baird as far back as 1861. Only the first and last demand our attention as occurring in Central America. In *Sorex* there are *five* "upper unicuspid" (four incisors and a premolar being present), making the whole number of teeth  $\frac{20}{12}=32$ ; the ears are moderate, and the tail more than half the length of the head and body. In *Notiosorex* only *three* upper unicuspid are present, so that the teeth are  $\frac{16}{12}=28$ ; the ears are thinly haired, large, and conspicuous, and the tail less than half the length of the head and body.

\* Bull. U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Surv. iii. pp. 643-647 (1877).

† 'Izslayedovaniya o zubnoi sistemye kutor i zemleroeck,' St. Petersburg, 1865 (cf. Zool. Rec. 1866, pp. 24-27); "Untersuchungen über das Gebiss der Spitzmäuse," Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, xli. (2<sup>de</sup> pt.) pp. 76-95, pls. i.-vi.; xlii. (2<sup>de</sup> pt.) pp. 1-79.