

had been found in the forest a league or two below the village, and run to bay by dogs, which kept it there whilst the Indians fetched their guns and shot it. The Puma has the character of being a cowardly animal, always ready to escape from pursuit; when hard pressed, it climbs a tree out of the reach of the dogs, and thus easily falls a prey to the Indian hunters. It nevertheless is a dangerous neighbour to a cattle-farm, where it makes raids upon the stock."

In Campeachy Dampier says:—"I never did see any Lion in this country; but I have been informed by two or three Persons that they did see Lions here: But I am assured that they are not numerous"\*. Pumas, however, were formerly exceedingly plentiful in many parts of Mexico. Professor Baird quotes Clavigero's History of Lower California to the effect that that province was so overrun with "Lions" that the natives were kept in absolute subjection to the brutes, and were often glad to make a meal on the remains of their prey. This increase was owing to a superstition which prevented the Indians from killing a Puma or even disturbing it in any way; and this belief was so fixed in their minds that it long resisted the utmost efforts of the Jesuit Missionaries, who found that they were unable to keep up their stock of domestic animals, owing to the ravages of the wild beasts<sup>2</sup>.

### 5. *Felis yaguarundi*.

*Felis yagouaroundi*, Desmarest, Mamm. p. 230 (1820, ex Azara)<sup>1</sup>.

*Felis mexicana*, Desmarest, loc. cit. (ex Buffon, nec de Saussure)<sup>2</sup>.

*Felis yaguarundi*, Wagner, Suppl. Schreb. Säugth. ii. p. 41, pl. ciii. b<sup>3</sup>; Baird, Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. Surv. ii., Mamm. p. 12<sup>4</sup>; Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 287<sup>5</sup>; Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 278<sup>6</sup>.

*Leon monero*, *Leon miquero*, of Costa-Ricans<sup>6</sup>.

*Hab.* MEXICO (*Buffon*<sup>2</sup>; *Liebmann*, *Mus. Hafn.*), Tamaulipas (*Berlandier*<sup>4</sup>); GUATEMALA, Vera Paz, Pacific coast (*Salvin*, *Mus. Brit.*<sup>5</sup>); COSTA RICA, Dota and Candelaria Mountains (*Frantzius*<sup>6</sup>); PANAMA (*Boucard*, *Mus. Brit.*).—SOUTH AMERICA to Paraguay<sup>1</sup>.

This singular dark-coloured Cat is a truly Neotropical species, its range extending from Paraguay to the North-eastern States of Mexico. It presents considerable variation in size, and in the ruddy or cinereous tints of its finely annulated fur; but this is neither connected with structural differences nor with geographical distribution, both greyish and reddish animals being found in the same locality.

M. Boucard has received the Yaguarundi from Veragua; but in Costa Rica it is rare and confined to the higher mountain forests; Dr. v. Frantzius could only procure four imperfect skins from the Dota and Candelaria ranges<sup>6</sup>. In Guatemala Mr. Salvin found it on the Pacific coast, as well as in the highlands of Vera Paz. In

\* Dampier's Voyages, ii. p. 62.