

of very local distribution; and, though it is doubtless found in other parts, our experience of it was confined to the hacienda of San Gerónimo in Vera Paz, where it was not at all uncommon. The attraction to this spot was a flock of sheep kept on the hacienda, upon which the Coyotes maintained a constant watch, ever ready to seize a stray animal or one that had not been brought into the fold at night. This fold was a square enclosure surrounded by a wall too high for the Coyotes to climb. Almost any still night one might hear the baying of these animals from the old convent which sheltered us so long and so hospitably." Still further to the southward, the range of the Coyote extends to Costa Rica, where Dr. v. Frantzius tells us that it is now confined to the north-western provinces of Guanacaste and Nicoya; it there inhabits the natural savannas of the south-western slope of the volcanic range, and does great damage about the haciendas, whence it constantly carries off the young calves. Formerly it was found on the Llanos of Turucares, and was sometimes seen in the neighbourhood of Alhajuela; but these formerly pastoral regions are now occupied by agriculturalists, and the Coyotes have consequently withdrawn to the first-named provinces, where they have greatly increased in numbers, in spite of the efforts made to keep them down by the use of strychnine⁵.

In Dr. v. Frantzius's opinion it is not improbable that the spread of this Wolf through Central America was subsequent to the Spanish conquest. He considers it improbable that they should have existed among the thick population of the semi-civilized natives who then occupied the western slopes, and thinks that their invasion may have been coincident with that of the European cattle, which were introduced in the first decade of the sixteenth century.

2. VULPES.

Vulpes, Brisson, Règ. An. p. 239 (1755).

The only representative of this genus within our limits is the well-known Grey Fox of North America, easily distinguishable from its Neotropical congeners by the clear grizzled grey of its upper parts, its rufous ears, and its dusky brush, washed beneath with rufous. As will presently be seen, it presents a considerable amount of variation in size, but in coloration it is more constant than most of its family.

1. *Vulpes virginianus*.

Canis argenteus, Schreber, Säugeth. iii. p. 585 (ante 1777, descr. orig.)¹.

Canis cinereo-argenteus, Schreber, tom. cit. pl. xcii. (ex Brisson)².

Canis virginianus, Schreber, tom. cit. p. 585, pl. xcii. B (ex Catesby)³.

Vulpes (Urocyon) virginianus, Baird, Mamm. N. Am. p. 138⁴; Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. Surv. ii., Mamm. p. 16⁵; Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. i. p. 160⁶.

Vulpes littoralis, Baird, Mamm. N. Am. p. 143 (1857, descr. orig.)⁷.