

1. **Heteromys desmarestianus.** (Tab. XVII. fig. 1.)

Heteromys desmarestianus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 79 (sine descr.)¹; op. cit. 1868, p. 204 (descr. orig.)²; Alston, op. cit. 1877, p. 446³.

Hab. GUATEMALA, Coban (*Mus. Brit.*¹).

Of this species nothing is known save Gray's type in the British Museum, which is represented in our figure. It has very much the general coloration of *H. anomalus*, but differs both in size and in its dark-pointed spines. From no specimens being included in Mr. Salvin's collections, it is probable that the species is very rare in Guatemala.

2. **Heteromys longicaudatus.** (Tab. XVII. fig. 2.)

Heteromys melanoleucus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 204 (descr. orig.)¹.

Heteromys longicaudatus, Gray, loc. cit. (descr. orig.)².

Heteromys irroratus, Gray, tom. cit. p. 205 (descr. orig.)³.

Heteromys albolimbatus, Gray, loc. cit. (descr. orig.)⁴.

Heteromys adpersus, Peters, Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1874, p. 357 (descr. orig.)⁵.

Taltusa of Guatemalans (common to *Geomys hispidus*).

Hab. MEXICO (*Sallé, Mus. Brit.*²), Oaxaca (*Sallé, ib.*³), La Parada (*Sallé, ib.*⁴); GUATEMALA, Dueñas (*Godman & Salvin, Mus. Brit.*); COSTA RICA (*Mus. Brit.*); PANAMA (*Boucard, Mus. Berol.*⁵).—SOUTH AMERICA, Colombia, Venezuela.

After a careful study, I have been quite unable to find any valid specific distinctions between the specimens on which the late Dr. Gray bestowed the names of *Heteromys melanoleucus*¹, *H. longicaudatus*², *H. irroratus*³, and *H. albolimbatus*⁴; and an examination of the type of Professor Peters's *H. adpersus*⁵ proves that it belongs to the same somewhat variable species. In colour the British-Museum specimens do not differ so much as one would gather from Gray's very misleading descriptions. It is painful to have to point out the numerous errors into which that voluminous writer fell in the present case; but it is absolutely necessary that this should be done. *H. melanoleucus* is *not* from "Honduras," but was sent by Dyson from Venezuela, as shown by the Museum register. Its fur is *not* "black," but of a warm tawny mouse-grey, little darker than that of the other "species." The specimen named *H. irroratus* shows a slight tinge of pale fawn along the edge of the darker colouring, but *not* a "widish interrupted yellow line;" while the two types of *H. albolimbatus* differ from one another in the extension of colour on the fore limbs*. Nor can any trust be placed in the other characters on which Gray depended, as the length of the tail, the hairiness of the ears, and the comparative softness or harshness of the fur. Thus a

* The locality of these examples is given by Gray as "La Parda (*Feirecier*);" but their labels bear "La Parada, Février 1861," in *Sallé's* handwriting.