

specimen from Guatemala is nearly as dark as "*melanoleucus*," has the proportionally short tail of "*irroratus*," and is strictly intermediate in the hairiness of its ears. The tail of the type of *H. longicaudatus* has been skinned and obviously much stretched; but as this is the only one of Gray's names which is not absolutely misleading, it should now be retained.

The range of this species extends from Southern Mexico to Colombia, whence it was sent by Salmon to the British Museum, and to Venezuela, which is the true habitat of "*H. melanoleucus*." Dr. v. Frantzius does not appear to have met with it in Costa Rica; but there is an example from that country in the British Museum. Messrs. Godman and Salvin tell me that it is a scarce animal in Guatemala. There is a specimen in the Museum of the capital of that republic with the cheek-pouches turned inside out, but with no record of where it was captured; and the only examples they obtained were caught by Indians near Dueñas: one of these last is the subject of our figure.

[OCTODONTIDÆ.]

In my general observations on the present order* I remarked that the important Neotropical family of Octodontidæ was represented in the Central-American fauna by a single form, *Myopotamus*. I much regret to find that I have been led into a misstatement. The source of error lies in the following passage in Dr. v. Frantzius's often-quoted paper:—"According to oral information received from J. Carmiol, a botanist and zoological dealer resident in Costa Rica, an animal is found on the San Carlo River, which, from his description, I consider must be either *Hydrochærus capybara* or *Myopotamus coypus*. From correspondence with Professor Baird it appears that the latter has also been found in Guatemala by Salvin; and it is therefore very probable that the animal seen by Carmiol is the Coypu, in which case it is doubtless to be found in other parts of Central America"†. It was on the last sentence that I relied; for Señor Carmiol's "description" must have been of the vaguest sort; but on applying (somewhat late in the day perhaps) to Mr. Salvin for further particulars, I find that either Professor Baird or Dr. v. Frantzius must have made a mistake, and that he never saw or heard of the Coypu in Central America.

Besides *Myopotamus coypus*, Dr. v. Frantzius has claimed *Octodon degus* (Molina) as a native of Costa Rica, on the strength of a specimen which he received from Turialba in 1859. Unfortunately the skin was lost on its way to Europe, so that all the material for identification left was the following short description which the Doctor had drawn up:—"The pencilled tail and the rounded nail of the thumb of the fore foot left no doubt that it was a species of Octodon. The colour of the soft fur was grey-brown above, lighter below; the length of the body was $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of the tail the same; the whiskers had a length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and stood up above the occiput." On examining

* *Suprà*, p. 120.

† Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 275.