

### 1. *Synetheres mexicanus*.

*Hystrix mexicana*, Kerr, Linn. An. Kingd. p. 214 (1792, ex Pennant)<sup>1\*</sup>.

*Cercolabes liebmani*, Reinhardt, Arch. f. Naturg. x. 1, p. 241 (1844, descr. orig.)<sup>2</sup>.

*Cercolabes novæ-hispaniæ*, Waterhouse, Nat. Hist. Mamm. ii. p. 422 (1848, ex Brisson †)<sup>3</sup>; Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 288<sup>4</sup>; Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 272<sup>5</sup>.

*Hoitzlocuatzin* seu *Tlacuatzin spinosus*, Hernandez, Rer. Med. Nov. Hisp. p. 322.

*Hab.* MEXICO (*Mus. Brit.*), Mirador, San Francisco Tenampa (*Liebmann, Mus. Hafn.*<sup>2</sup>), Yucatan (*Gaumer, Mus. Boucard*); GUATEMALA, Dueñas (*Salvin, Mus. Brit.*<sup>4</sup>); COSTA RICA, Irazú, Volcan de Barba (*Frantzius*<sup>5</sup>).

The Mexican Porcupine was described two centuries ago by Hernandez under the euphonious title which it still bears in its native land, and received systematic names from Brisson and Kerr. It was long confused, however, with the common Brazilian species, *S. prehensilis* (Linnæus); and consequently Professor Reinhardt, to whom we are indebted for the first scientific description, thought it best to rename it. As there can be no doubt, however, from the references to Hernandez, as to the identity of the species, Kerr's name must of course be preserved.

Professor Reinhardt's specimens were obtained at Mirador and San Francisco, in the State of Vera Cruz, by the late Professor Liebmann, who stated that the species was generally distributed in the eastern parts of Mexico in the temperate hill-region between the 22nd and 16th parallels of north latitude<sup>2</sup>. In Guatemala Mr. Salvin obtained it at Dueñas<sup>4</sup>; but it is far from common in that country. In Costa Rica also the Porcupine appears to be rare; during his lengthened residence in the country Dr. v. Frantzius only saw six examples, which were obtained in the high-lying woods of the Irazú and on the Volcan de Barba<sup>5</sup>.

In his quaint account of the animals of Campeachy, Dampier dismisses this species with the remark:—"The *Porcupine* being a Creature well known, I'll pass it in silence." Unfortunately subsequent travellers have treated the Mexican species in a similar way, and nothing appears to have been recorded of its habits. In these, however, it probably differs little from its southern congeners, which have been well described by Azara, Rengger, Prince Maximilian, and others.

\* The authority usually quoted for *mexicana* is Shaw's 'General Zoology,' ii. p. 8 (1801); but Mr. O. Thomas has pointed out that it was used as above by Kerr nine years previously. Cf. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 5th ser. iv. p. 397.

† According to the British-Association code, Brisson's *specific* names cannot be used, although his genera are recognized when they are additional to those of Linnæus.