

Fam. VI. DASYPROCTIDÆ.**1. DASYPROCTA.**

Agouti, Lacépède, Mém. de l'Inst. Nat. iii. p. 424 (1801)*.

Dasyprocta, Illiger, Prod. Syst. Mamm. &c. p. 93 (1811).

Cloromis [sic], Fréd. Cuvier, Ann. du Mus. xix. p. 290 (1812).

Both the known genera of the exclusively Neotropical family Dasyproctidæ are represented in Central America, the present by at least three species. The genus *Dasyprocta* is characterized by a compact body, long limbs, three-toed hind feet, and a very short or even rudimentary tail: the skull is elongated and smooth, with no separate canal in the infraorbital opening, and no cavity in the malars; the paroccipital processes are short; and the molars are very simple.

Many species of *Agouti*, all very closely allied, have been described from various parts of the Neotropical Region. In revising the group four years ago† I recognized eight or nine geographical races as deserving of specific distinction; and this still appears to me to represent the present state of our knowledge, although it is not improbable that future investigation may prove that some of these forms grade into one another. The three Central-American races are all peculiar to the subregion, and differ from one another in the following points:—

1. *D. isthmica*. Fur ringed with black and yellow; long hairs of rump not annulated, black with broad orange or yellow tips. Length of head and body about 22", of hind foot 4".25.
2. *D. punctata*. Fur ringed with black and bright rufous or yellow, that of throat and breast uniform with the back; hairs of rump annulated to their base. Length about 22", of hind foot 4".
3. *D. mexicana*. Fur ringed with black and pure white, long hairs of rump not annulated, black throughout their length. Length about 17", of hind foot 3".50.

Besides these the Zoological Society has received from Colon living specimens of *D. variegata*, Tschudi, a Peruvian and Colombian form, easily distinguishable by its black fur being ringed with pale yellow *only* near the tip. The exact locality whence these animals were obtained, however, is uncertain.

1. *Dasyprocta isthmica*. (Tab. XVIII. figg. 2, 3.)

Dasyprocta cristata, Waterhouse, Nat. Hist. Mamm. ii. p. 384¹; Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 274 (nec Ét. Geoffroy)².

Dasyprocta punctata, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 665 (nec Gray)³.

Dasyprocta isthmica, Alston, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 347 (descr. orig.)⁴.

Hab. COSTA RICA (*Hoffmann & Frantzius, Mus. Berol.*²); PANAMA (*Brit. Mus.; Viv. Zool. Soc.*⁴).

* Cf. *suprà*, p. 3, footnote.

† "On the Genus *Dasyprocta*," P. Z. S. 1876, pp. 347-352, pl. xxix.