

The Isthmian Agouti, as is shown by the above synonymy, has been referred to various species by different writers; but it is a sufficiently well-marked form, distinguishable at a glance from its congeners by the colour of the long hairs of the rump, which are not annulated, but black broadly tipped with orange or yellow. Nearly a dozen examples which I have examined agree in all essential points, differing only slightly in the more or less ruddy tint of the rump; and Dr. v. Frantzius says that the specimens obtained by him in Costa Rica were also very uniform in coloration.

Mr. Salvin tells me that this appears to be a common species in Panama. In 1873 he saw some running about in the underwood of the forest near Obispo station. Dr. v. Frantzius remarks that its habits do not differ from those of the other Agoutis².

This is doubtless the animal which Lionel Wafer met with in Panama in 1681, and of which he gives the following account:—"Here are *Rabbits*, call'd by our *English*, *Indian* Conies. They are as large as our Hares; But I know not that this Country has any Hares. These Rabbits have no Tails, and but little short Ears; and the Claws of their Feet are long. They lodge in the Roots of Trees, making no Burrows; and the *Indians* hunt them, but there is no great Plenty of them. They are very good Meat, and eat rather moister than ours"*.

Our illustration is from one of the type specimens now in the British Museum.

2. *Dasyprocta punctata*.

Dasyprocta punctata, Gray, Ann. Nat. Hist. x. p. 264 (1842, descr. orig.¹); Zool. Voy. 'Sulphur,' p. 36, pl. xv.²; Alston, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 350³.

? *Dasyprocta aguti*, Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 281 [nec Linnæus]⁴.

Dasyprocta azaræ, Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 287 [nec Lichtenstein]⁵.

Cotusa of Guatemalans.

Hab. MEXICO, Yucatan (*Gaumer, Mus. Boucard*); GUATEMALA, Dueñas (*Salvin, Mus. Brit.*⁵); COSTA RICA (*Viv. Zool. Soc.*³).

The Punctated Agouti is much less constant in colour than the last species, Mr. Salvin's Guatemalan specimens varying in general tint from a rich deep chestnut to a pale yellow. The latter agree exactly with Gray's types, of which the vague habitat "Tropical America" only is given, but which were collected by Commanders Belcher and Kellett, probably on the west coast of Costa Rica or Nicaragua.

These pale specimens bear a very remarkable resemblance to *D. azaræ*, Lichtenstein, the most southern species of Agouti, which inhabits central and southern Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia. Consequently *D. punctata* has been united with *D. azaræ* by Wagner† and by Mr. Waterhouse‡; and were it not for the consideration of the vast

* Dampier's Voyages, iii. p. 330.

† Suppl. Schreb. Säugth. iv. p. 40.

‡ Nat. Hist. Mamm. ii. p. 387.