

gap between their ranges, I should probably have followed their example. Even the palest individuals of the present species, however, may be separated from the Brazilian form by their larger size, their still more uniform coloration, and by the hair of the throat, breast, and lower parts being annulated like that of the rest of the body; while I have never seen an individual of *D. azaræ* which showed a trace of the rich ruddy tints which appear to be normal in the northern race.

The range of this Agouti is intermediate between that of the last species and the next, both of which it probably overlaps. M. Boucard has shown me specimens from Yucatan; it is common in most parts of Guatemala; and presumably it is found in Nicaragua, for the Zoological Society have received examples from Costa Rica, where the species appears to have escaped the observation of Dr. v. Frantzius.

Messrs. Godman and Salvin inform me that in Guatemala "the natives hunt these Agoutis in the forest with dogs. They are usually run into holes in the ground, or amongst rocks, whence they are often started again by being smoked out. The flesh of the *Cotusa* is much esteemed there, being white and tender; but to our mind it is rather too rich to be altogether palatable."

### 3. *Dasyprocta mexicana*. (Tab. XVIII. fig. 1.)

*Dasyprocta mexicana*, de Saussure, Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1860, p. 53 (descr. orig.)<sup>1</sup>; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 683<sup>2</sup>; Alston, op. cit. 1876, p. 349<sup>3</sup>.

*Hab.* MEXICO (*de Saussure*<sup>1</sup>; *Lichtabbel*, *Viv. Zool. Soc.*<sup>2</sup>; *Liebmann*, *Mus. Hafn.*).

The Mexican Agouti, the most northern and one of the smallest of the members of the genus, has a considerable general resemblance to *D. fuliginosa*, Wagler, of Northern Brazil and Peru, but may be recognized, apart from the great difference in size, by the short and uniformly black hair of the rump.

M. de Saussure, who has given a very detailed description of the species, adds the following details as to its habits:—"This charming little animal inhabits the hot zone of Mexico. Its flesh is excellent, and it is hunted as Hares are with us; but it is much more difficult to catch, on account of its great agility, and of the prodigious bounds by which it surmounts any obstacle. For the rest, its disposition is very gentle. Taken young it is easily tamed, and is so cleanly that it may be allowed to run loose about the house. I brought one alive with me to Europe; but when alarmed by the entrance of a stranger it made such enormous bounds, sweeping the tables and upsetting the furniture, that I was obliged to get rid of it. I presented it to the Menagerie of the Museum, where it died soon after"<sup>1</sup>.

Our illustration is from a specimen which was presented to the Zoological Society in 1874 by Mr. H. A. Marckmann de Lichtabbel, the skin of which is now preserved in the British Museum.