

2. CÆLOGENYS.

Cælogenus, Fréd. Cuvier, Ann. du Mus. x. p. 203 (1807).

Cælogenys, Illiger, Prod. Syst. Mamm. &c. p. 92 (1811).

Hardly any genus of Rodents presents more remarkable peculiarities than *Cælogenys*, which nevertheless agrees closely with *Dasyprocta* in general structure. Externally the most striking characters are the reflection of the skin of the cheeks beneath the zygomata and the presence of five toes on the hind feet. In the skull the zygomata are enormously inflated, the anterior two thirds being composed of the maxillary zygomatic process, which is hollowed out below into a great chamber, lined with mucous membrane and communicating with the mouth. The use of this very curious structure has never been satisfactorily explained.

Only one widely distributed species of this genus is known to exist; for the dark- and light-coloured animals on which Frédéric Cuvier founded his *Cælogenus subniger* and *C. fulvus* have long since been proved to be mere varieties, and have even been found paired together*. The colour of the Paca may therefore be said to vary from pale red-brown to dark sooty-brown, marked with numerous white spots; it attains a length of about twenty-four inches.

1. *Cælogenys paca*.

Mus paca, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 81 (1766, ex Marcgrave)¹.

Cælogenus subniger, Fréd. Cuvier, Ann. du Mus. x. p. 206 (1807, descr. orig.)²; Dugès, La Nat. i. p. 138³.

Cælogenys paca, Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 288⁴; Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 273⁵.

Tepescuinte, *Tepescuintle* of Guatemalans and Costa-Ricans.

Hab. MEXICO, Vera Cruz (*Dugès*³); GUATEMALA, Coban, Dueñas⁴, Rio Chisoy (*Godman & Salvin*, *Mus. Brit.*); COSTA RICA (*Frantzius*⁵); PANAMA (*Viv. Zool. Soc.*).—SOUTH AMERICA to Paraguay.

This widely-spread Neotropical species is found throughout the hotter parts of Central America. The Zoological Society have received several living specimens from Panama; and in Costa Rica Dr. v. Frantzius says that it inhabits the warmer and low-lying parts of the mountain-ranges, where it lives in burrows near the rivers. Its flesh is much prized by the Costa-Ricans, to whom it is known by the Mexican name of *Tepescuintle*—literally mountain-dog. The *Tepeytzcuitli* of Hernandez, however, appears to have been a beast of prey †, from which the name has somehow been transferred to the Paca⁵.

* Cf. Rengger, Säugeth. v. Paraguay, p. 252.

† De Quadr. Nov. Hisp. fol. 7, cap. xxi.