

westward and southward of Alabama. Thence it appears to extend along the east coast as far as Orizaba and Yucatan, whence there are many specimens in the National Museum at Washington. Mr. Allen says that these last differ in no marked degree from examples collected in Mississippi and Louisiana; so the species cannot be considered very variable in its characters.

Order VIII. EDENTATA.

Suborder I. TARDIGRADA.

The group of so-called Edentate Mammals is made up of such widely distinct and dissimilar forms that their natural arrangement is a very difficult undertaking. I am myself by no means convinced that any of the proposed classifications are satisfactory; but in the meantime I will follow that most generally adopted, and recognize two suborders, the Tardigrada of Illiger and the Entomophaga of Wagner. Of these the first contains only one recent family, eminently characteristic of the Neotropical fauna.

Fam. I. BRADYPODIDÆ.

1. BRADYPUS.

Bradypus, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 50 (1766).

Amongst the strangest of the many strange Edentate types are the Sloths, constituting the family Bradypodidæ, and well represented in Central America by both the known genera. Of these the Three-toed Sloths, forming the restricted genus *Bradypus**, may be at once distinguished by the structure of their fore feet, in which the *three* middle fingers are well developed and powerfully armed with long hooked claws. In their osteology they present the very exceptional peculiarity of possessing *nine* cervical vertebræ; their skulls are high and narrow, with merely rudimentary intermaxillaries; and the anterior pair of molars are not larger than the rest.

A considerable number of species of Three-toed Sloths have been described; but much uncertainty still exists as to their claims to distinction. A large series of specimens with carefully authenticated localities is wanted before a definite conclusion can be come to on many points; but the material already available seems to me to show that many of the supposed species, especially those of the late Dr. Gray, have been

* Gray confined the name *Bradypus* to the Brazilian Collared Sloth, *B. torquatus*, Illiger; while he named all the other three-toed species *Arctopithecus* (P. Z. S. 1849, p. 65). It is evident, however, that *B. tridactylus* must be regarded as the type of *Bradypus*, as instituted by Linnæus and restricted by Illiger. If *B. torquatus* is considered to deserve generic distinction, it must stand as *Scaopus* of Peters (Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1864, p. 678, footnote).