

PETROGALE LATERALIS, *Gould.*

Striped-sided Rock Wallaby.

Petrogale lateralis, Gould, Mon. of Macropodidæ, pl.

Macropus (Heteropus) lateralis, Waterh. Nat. Hist. of Mamm., vol. i. p. 172.

Moö-roo-rong, Aborigines of the Perth and Toodyay districts of Western Australia.

THIS conspicuously marked species is very abundant in all the rocky districts of Swan River, particularly the Toodyay, and I have little doubt that the whole of the line of coast of Western Australia will hereafter be found to be inhabited by it, wherever the character of the country is suitable. Independently of the difference in its markings and the more woolly texture of its fur, it is a much more diminutive animal than the *P. penicillata*; the crania of the two animals also exhibit sufficient differences to satisfy the most sceptical mind of their being specifically distinct; in their disposition and economy, however, but little variation is found to exist.

Mr. Gilbert states that "the *Petrogale lateralis* is only to be met with in the rocky parts of the interior intersected with caverns. It is a remarkably shy and wary animal, feeding only at night in little open patches of grass, and never, from all that I have been able to observe, going more than two or three hundred yards from its rocky retreats. When alarmed, it leaps most extraordinary distances from rock to rock and point to point with the utmost rapidity. When running along a level surface, its tail is very much curved upwards like that of a greyhound, and the best way to procure specimens is to walk over the rocks without shoes, and station yourself within gunshot distance of the principal entrance to their caverns, when, on making their appearance in the middle of the day for the purpose of sunning themselves, they are easily shot."

Fur shorter and much softer than that of *P. penicillata*; general colour reddish-brown, passing into silvery-grey on the neck and shoulders; basal half of the tail brownish-grey, the remainder black, with a brush at the end; face greyish-brown; a distinct white mark from the tip to the base of the ear; a black mark between the ears, extending in a distinct narrow line half-way down the back; ears dark brown, becoming of a light sandy colour at the base; a deep rich brown mark extends from behind the shoulders, down the back of the arm, along the flanks and down the inside of the thigh; this mark is separated from the general colour of the back by a very distinct stripe of white; chin, throat, chest and abdomen sandy-red; under sides of the neck grey; arms light sandy-red, passing into black on the hands; tarsi reddish brown, passing into blackish-brown on the toes.

	Male.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail	3	5
„ of the tail	1	5
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		5 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ „ arms and hands, including the nails		4 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear		4
„ „ ear		1 $\frac{7}{8}$

The first Plate represents the head of the size of life; the second, reduced figures of the entire animal.