

PETROGALE PENICILLATA, Gray.

Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby.

- Kangurus pencillatus*, Gray, in Griff. Anim. Kingd., vol. iii. pl. opp. p. 49.
Macropus penicillatus, Benn. in Proc. Zool. Soc., part iii. p. 1.—Waterh. in Jard. Nat. Lib. Mamm., vol. xi. (Marsupialia) p. 243. pl. 22.—Benn. Cat. of Australian Museum, Sydney, p. 6. no. 27.
Kangurus Pencillatus, Gray, in Griff. Anim. Kingd., vol. v. p. 204.
Petrogale penicillatus, Gray, in Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. i. new ser. p. 583.
Heteropus albogularis, Jourd. Compte rendu de l'Acad. des Sci. Oct. 9, 1837, p. 552?, et Ann. des Sci. Nat. 1837, tom. viii. p. 368?
Petrogale penicillata, Gould, Mon. of Macropodidæ.—Gray, List of Mamm. in Coll. Brit. Mus., p. 92.
Macropus (Heteropus) penicillatus, Waterh. Nat. Hist. Mamm., vol. i. p. 167. pl. 1.

THE Colony of New South Wales, or the south-eastern portion of Australia, is the native habitat of the *Petrogale penicillata*; it must not, however, be understood that it is universally dispersed over this part of the continent, for the situations it affects and for which its structure is especially adapted are very peculiar, and do not occur in all parts of the colony; those portions of the mountain ranges stretching along the eastern coast from Port Philip to Moreton Bay, the character of which is rocky and precipitous, are among the localities in which it is to be found; hills of a lower elevation than those of the great ranges, and the precipitous stony gullies between the mountains and the sea, are also situations it inhabits; my own specimens were collected in various parts of the Upper Hunter district, both on the Liverpool Range and on the low hills which spur out in a southerly direction. Agile and monkey-like in its actions, few animals are more active among their native rocks; it readily evades the pursuit of the Dingo or native dog (*Canis Dingo*) by leaping from one rocky ledge to another, until, arriving at the edge of the cliff, it is secure from its attacks; it also ascends trees with facility, particularly those the half-prostrate position of which offer it a ready means of ascent; but it more particularly loves to dwell among rocks abounding with deep and cavernous recesses, into which it plunges on the slightest apprehension of danger, when both the natives and its natural enemy the Dingo are generally foiled; at the mouths of these caverns, and for a considerable distance down the hill-sides, regular, hard, well-beaten tracks are formed, which, on the one hand, serve to facilitate the retreat of the animal to its secure asylum, while, on the other, they indicate its proximity. I have used the words "monkey-like" when speaking of its actions; and to show that they appeared as such to others as well as to myself, I may mention that in a note by Capt. Sir Edward W. Parry, R.N., published in the part of the Proceedings of the Zoological Society above referred to, it is stated that "the first intimation received of these animals was that monkeys were to be seen in a particular situation; and the manner in which they jumped about when a number of them were approached left that impression on the mind. They were so wild that it was impossible on the first attempt to obtain a specimen, and one which was wounded escaped into its hole." Sir Edward adds, "As several were seen together on more than one occasion, they appear to be gregarious." It must be regarded rather as a local animal than otherwise, as it is never to be found but in districts similar to those described. Although strictly nocturnal in its habits, individuals may frequently be seen during the day sunning themselves on the face of a rock or on half-prostrate trees. At such times they may be easily crept upon and shot; it was in this way that I procured numerous specimens for my own collection.

Several examples of this species have from time to time lived in the Gardens of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park, and when placed in a proper inclosure displayed all the actions and attitudes they assume in their native wilds. A fine male now (October 1853) living in the Society's Menagerie formed the model from which Mr. Richter took the correct delineation given on the accompanying Plate; it was an excellent sitter, for it remained perched on the stem of a large tree for hours together. Great diversity of colouring occurs in different individuals, some being much darker than others; again, some have the breast and under surface rich rust-red, while in others the same parts are of a much paler hue, or inclining to buff.

The *Petrogale penicillata* may be regarded as the largest species of the well-defined genus to which it