

## HALMATURUS DERBIANUS, *Gray.*

Derby's Wallaby.

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FACE AND FORE PART OF A MALE AND OF A FEMALE, OF THE NATURAL SIZE.

MY figures of this animal were taken from specimens procured on Kangaroo Island, at the entrance of Spencer's Gulf. I mention this particularly, because I have given the name of *Halmaturus Houtmanni* to an animal inhabiting the Abrolhos of Western Australia, which Mr. Waterhouse considers may be only a variety of the present species; but this is a point which time alone can determine. These insular animals are extremely puzzling, and considerable judgment is required in ascertaining their specific value.

The *Halmaturus Derbianus* is somewhat allied to the *H. Parma*; still they are unquestionably distinct. They form, with *H. dorsalis*, a little section of the group quite different from that constituted by *H. Thetidis*, *H. stigmaticus*, *H. Billardieri*, and *H. brachyurus*.

The *H. Derbianus* is very numerous in all the thick brushes of the islands on which it has been found. It is bustling and quick in all its actions; and it is only by the aid of dogs that it can be forced from its retreat, or to leave the numerous runs formed by it beneath the underwood in all directions.

For the pleasing life-like representation of this species, much credit is due to Mr. Richter; for nothing could be more faithful.

The reader is referred to the description accompanying the reduced figures given on the next Plate for a full account of this animal.