

HALMATURUS GREYI, Gray.

Grey's Wallaby.

Halmaturus Greyii, Gray, List of Mamm. in Brit. Mus., p. 90.

Macropus (Halmaturus) Greyi, Waterh. Nat. Hist. of Mamm., vol. i. p. 122.

THIS fine Wallaby was first sent to this country from South Australia by His Excellency Sir George Grey, after whom it was named. It is a species quite distinct from every other, but is perhaps most nearly allied to the *Halmaturus manicatus*, an animal inhabiting the country farther to the westward. Its powerful and finely proportioned hinder extremities, contrasted as they are with its slender and diminutive fore-arms, are indicative of a structure adapted for rapid movements, and, in strict accordance with this view, we find that it is one of the most fleet and agile members of its race. Its favourite places of resort are flats near the sea-shore, particularly low sand-hills and open grounds, where the surface is bare and unbroken, to which is doubtless to be attributed the circumstance of its claws being more attenuated and spine-like than those of any other species. In size the *H. Greyi* rather exceeds the *H. manicatus*, but it is less than *H. ruficollis* and *H. Bennettii*.

Mr. Strange informs me that he met with this animal "between Lake Albert and the Glenelg. The kind of country in which it is found consists of large open plains intersected by extensive salt lagoons and bordered by pine ridges. On fine sunny days it is to be found in the salt-water scrub around the lagoons and amid the long grass of the plains. I never saw anything so swift of foot as is this species: it does not appear to hurry itself until the dogs have got pretty close, when it bounds away like an antelope, with first a short jump and then a long one, leaving the dogs far behind it. In wet weather it confines itself to the sand-hills. I have had twenty runs in a day with four swift dogs and not succeeded in getting one."

The description of this animal by Mr. Waterhouse from Sir George Grey's specimens so closely accords with my own, that I cannot do better than give it in his own words:—

"General colour pale ashy brown, slightly tinted with yellowish; the pale tint of the upper parts of the body is produced by the mixture of white with pale rust-colour and black, the visible portion of each hair exhibiting these colours; on the under parts of the body the hairs are of a pale buff-yellow colour externally, and pale grey at the root; the head is grey above, obscurely tinted with rufous, and this latter tint is also observable on the back of the ears, as well as on the neck; immediately behind the naked tip, the muzzle is dusky black above, but the black hue is almost immediately blended into the general grey tint; on the sides of the muzzle are three longitudinal bands, of which the middle one, representing the ordinary pale cheek-mark, is pale yellow; the upper one almost black, but slightly pencilled with whitish, and the lower one is somewhat suffused with brownish; ears well clothed internally with rich yellow hairs, but they are rather narrowly margined with black at the apex; externally, the black extends downwards from the point for about half an inch; behind the eye is a yellowish spot; the chin and throat are tinted with fulvous, and there is a greyish spot on the former; the chest is greyish; below the chest the fur has a pale rusty grey hue; the arms are grey-white at the base, and of a very pale fulvous colour, or fulvous white beyond, and the hands are of the same colour, but the fingers are black, and the black extends slightly beyond the base of the fingers; the hind legs and feet are coloured in the same manner; the thighs are somewhat greyish externally at the base, and the toes are black, with the exception of the long hairs which cover the nails, which are brownish; tail well clothed with hairs of a very pale grey colour, washed as it were with yellow on the upper parts and brown-white beneath; a considerable space at the apex covered with long dirty yellowish hairs."

	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the root of the tail	2	8
„ of tail	2	5
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		9½
„ „ arm and hand, including the nails		6½
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear . .		5½
„ „ ear		3

The head and fore-arm represented in the accompanying Plate are of the natural size, while the entire figures in the other are much reduced.