



OSPHRANTER ROBUSTUS, *Gould.*

Black Wallaroo.

HEAD OF A MALE AND OF A FEMALE, LIFE-SIZE.

IF there be any one of the Great Kangaroos the discovery of which afforded me more pleasure than another during my sojourn in Australia, it is the Great Black Wallaroo of the mountain-districts of New South Wales. Surprising, indeed, it was that so large and conspicuous an animal had not been previously made known; and still more surprising is the fact that, from the period of my visit in 1838-39 to the present time, 1863, few if any skins of the animal have been sent to Europe. Still I can assure my readers that the existence of the Black Wallaroo is not a myth; for specimens of both sexes grace the collections at the British Museum and at Leyden. Like the *O. antilopinus*, the *O. robustus* becomes dangerous both to man and dogs when the rocky and sterile mountain elevations it frequents are traversed; for, like the *Ibex* of the mountain-ranges of the northern hemisphere, the old males will make a determined stand when assaulted and escape is impossible.

As is the case with the sexes of all the other members of this section of the *Macropodidae*, the male and female of *O. robustus* differ considerably in size, the latter being much smaller and weaker than the former.

As the districts inhabited by this fine species are fully described in the succeeding pages, it is unnecessary to mention them here.

A glance at the accompanying illustration, which represents a head of each sex of the size of life, will furnish a just conception of the features of these animals.