HALMATURUS RUFICOLLIS.

Rufous-necked Wallaby.

Spec. Char.—*Halm. ferruginoso-fuscus, albo-irroratus; notâ albâ modicè distinctâ per labrum usque ad oculum ductâ; corpore subtùs cinerescenti-albo, pilis ad basin cinereis, ad apicem albis.*

Descr.—General colour rusty brown pencilled with white; fur on the back grey at the base, succeeded by rusty, broadly annulated with white near the extremity, and black at the point; neck and shoulders almost entirely of a bright rust-red; muzzle brownish black; on the upper lip a tolerably distinct white mark, which runs backward and terminates beneath the eye; apical half of the ear externally blackish; internal surface of the ear well clothed with white hairs, the tip narrowly margined with black; on the chin a patch of black; throat pure white; under surface of the body grey-white, the hairs being grey at the base and white at the extremity; arms bright rust-colour grizzled with black and rusty white; hands black; tarsi clothed with white hairs, all of which are brownish black at the base; toes covered with black hairs; tail hoary grey with a small pencil of black hairs at the tip.

	Male.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	5	$3\frac{1}{2}$
,, of tail	2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
,, ,, tarsus and toes, including the nail		9
,, ,, arm and hand, including the nails		9
,, ,, face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear		$5\frac{1}{4}$
,, ,, ear		$3\frac{1}{4}$

Kangurus ruficollis, Desm. Ency. Méth. Mamm., p. 274.
——— *rufo-griseus*, Desm. Ib., p. 273.
Macropus ruficollis, Less. Man. de Mamm., p. 226.
Warroon of the Aborigines of the Illawarra district.

This species of *Halmaturus* has been long known as forming part of the continental collections, particularly those of Paris and Leyden; the specimens therein contained have been described under at least two specific names, *ruficollis* and *rufo-griseus*, and Mr. J. E. Gray believes that the *Macropus elegans* of Lambert is also referable to the same animal; an opinion in which, however, I cannot concur, as neither the drawing in the 'Linnean Transactions,' nor the accompanying description of the fur, which is said to be of "a beautiful silver-grey," at all agrees with the one here figured, in any state of its colouring. The *M. elegans* is, moreover, said to be very scarce in New South Wales, while the *H. ruficollis* is more abundant there than any other: the aboriginal name of the latter is *Warroon*, while that of the former is said to be *Ba-garee*; a further argument in favour of their being distinct.

The undefined markings and variable colouring of the present animal have much puzzled me, and I am led to suspect that the Brush Wallaby of Van Diemen's Land, to which Mr. Waterhouse has given the name of *Bennettii*, in honour of the late estimable Secretary of the Zoological Society, may be identical with it; and I am strengthened in this supposition, by having observed that, as we proceed from Van Diemen's Land northward through the islands of Bass's Straits to the continent of Australia, the thick dark-coloured fur gradually gives place to a thinner and rusty red coat similar to the figures here given, from examples taken in New South Wales; but should this supposition ultimately prove to be unfounded, it must be conceded that the larger species of Wallaby inhabiting Flinders and King's Islands will be referable to the present species, and not to *Bennettii*, whose habitat would then be confined to Van Diemen's Land. I may here mention, that Peron's specimens in the Paris Museum were collected on King's Island, and are the originals from which Desmarest took his descriptions of *ruficollis* and *rufo-griseus*. I hope ere long to receive perfect skeletons of this or these animals, as the case may be, from different localities, by which means alone can it be determined whether or not they are identical.

This species was formerly common near Sydney, but is now gradually retiring before the advance of civilized man; it is still, however, abundant in the thick *Daveysia* scrub on the table-land behind Illawarra, particularly on the fine estate at Bong-Bong, belonging to Charles Throsby, Esq., to whom I am indebted for many friendly attentions, and for his assistance in procuring fine specimens of this animal.