HALMATURUS DORSALIS, *Gray.*

Black-striped Wallaby.

Spec. Char.—*Halm. caudâ longissimâ; colore rufescenti-fusco nigro alboque variegato (vel irrorato) capitis corporisque partibus inferioribus albis; collo humerisque rufis; strigâ nigrâ ab occipite ad dorsi medium eductâ; rostro supernè obscuro, utrinque lineâ albâ notato; dorso imo notâ transversâ albâ; caudâ cinereâ; digitis omnibus nigris.*

Descr.—Fur rather harsh to the touch; general colour brown, with a rusty tinge, produced by each hair being of a rusty brown in the middle; upper surface and sides of the body freely pencilled with black and white; on the back of the neck, shoulders and outer side of the arms a bright rusty red hue prevails, and the same hue is observable on the hinder part of the back, outer side of the hind legs (especially near the knee) and sides of the body, but is much paler; chin, throat, and all the under parts of the body white; tail clothed with very short, adpressed, grisly hairs, becoming longer and of a dirty white on the under side of the apical half; upper surface of the muzzle dusky, with a white line on each side; ears black on the outside, and white internally; a black mark commences near the occiput and proceeds backwards; towards the tail it is broadest, and most distinct on the middle of the back, and becomes obliterated as it approaches the tail; on the haunch a transverse white mark; hands and feet black.

	Male.		Female.	
	feet.	inches.	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	4	7	3	10
,, of tail	2	1	1	9
,, ,, tarsus and toes, including the nail		8		$7\frac{1}{4}$
,, ,, arm and hand, including the nails		$8\frac{1}{2}$		$6\frac{1}{4}$
,, ,, face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear		5		$4\frac{1}{4}$
,, ,, ear		3		$2\frac{3}{4}$

Halmaturus dorsalis, Gray in Mag. of Nat. Hist. for Nov. 1837, vol. i., New Series, p. 583.

This fine Wallaby, which is distinguished from all other species by the greater length of its tail, and by the black mark which commences at the occiput and runs down the centre of the back, is an inhabitant of the interior, and is particularly abundant in all the scrubs clothing the sides of the hills that run parallel to the rivers Mokai and Namoi; and although I cannot positively assert that such is the case, I have reason to believe that it inhabits all similar situations between the above-mentioned localities and the great Murray scrub in South Australia. I have never heard of its having been seen between the ranges and the coast, a circumstance that may be attributed to the brush being of a totally different character, the vegetation being more dense and humid than the dry stony hills of the interior. Like the other members of the genus it is strictly gregarious; it is in fact so numerous that I found not the slightest difficulty in procuring as many specimens as I pleased, and it was more often shot as an article of food than for any other purpose. Its flesh is excellent, and when the vast continent of Australia becomes more thickly inhabited, it will doubtless be justly esteemed. The natives often resort to the haunts of this species and commit great havoc among them, both for the sake of their flesh as food, and for their skins as articles of clothing.

They have various modes of capturing them, sometimes making use of large nets, at other times they are driven by dogs from side to side of the brush, which affords the hunters abundant opportunities of spearing or killing them with the waddy as they pass the open spots.

It is especially abundant at Brezi, to the northward of the Liverpool Plains, and I also found it extremely numerous in the Brigaloe brush on the Lower Namoi.

The female is distinguished by her smaller size, but in the markings of the two sexes no difference exists. The full-grown males of this species will weigh from twenty to twenty-five pounds.