GENUS MUS.—LINN.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{2}{2}; \text{ Canine } \frac{0-0}{0-0}; \text{ Molar } \frac{3-3}{3-3} = 16.$$

Cheek-teeth, furnished with tubercles; ears, oblong or round, nearly naked; without cheek-pouches; fore-feet, with four toes, and a wart covered with an obtuse nail in place of a thumb; hind-feet, pendac tylous; tail, long, usually naked and scaly; fur, with a few long, scattered hairs, extending beyond the rest.

The generic name *Mus* is derived from the Latin *mus*, a mouse, from the Greek *μῦς*, (*mus*), a mouse.

There are upwards of two hundred species of this genus described as existing in various quarters of the globe, of which about nine well-determined species are found in North America, three of which have been introduced.

MUS RATTUS.—LINN.

BLACK RAT.

PLATE XXIII.—OLD AND YOUNG, OF VARIOUS COLOURS.

M. cauda corpore longiore; pedibus anterioribus ungue pro pollice instructis; corpore atro, subtus cinereo.

CHARACTERS.

Tail, longer than the body; fore-feet, with a claw in place of a thumb, bluish-black above, dark ash-coloured beneath.

SYNONYMES.

MUS RATTUS, Linn., 12th ed., p. 83.

“ “ Schreber, *Säugethiere*, p. 647.

“ “ Desmar., in *Nouv. Dict.*, 29, p. 48.

RAT, Buffon, *Hist. Nat.*, vol. vii., p. 278, t. 36.

RAT ORDINAIRE, Cuv., *Règne Anim.*, p. 197.

BLACK RAT, Penn., *Arc. Zool.*, vol. i., p. 129.

ROLLER PONTOPP., *Dan. i.*, p. 611.

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