

It is to Ximenes, and afterwards to Hernandez, that we owe the first knowledge of this animal, which they have indicated under the Mexican name of *hoitztlacuatzin*. The *tlacuatzin* is the opossum and the *hoitztlacuatzin* should be translated the *bristly* or *spinous opossum*. This name has been misapplied, for these animals resemble each other very little. Marcgrave has not adopted this Mexican denomination, but calls this animal *cuandu*. The only thing we can reproach Marcgrave with, is his not having known, that the *cuandu* of Brasil was the same animal as the *hoitztlacuatzin* of Mexico, especially as his description and figure agree with those of Hernandez; and as Laët, the editor and commentator of Marcgrave expressly says, that the spiny *tlacuatzin* of Ximenes, and the *cuandu*, are probably the same animal. By collecting the scattered accounts of travellers there appears to be two varieties of these animals, which the naturalists, after Piso, have inserted in their lists as two different species, namely, the great and the little coendou: but what immediately proves the error, or negligence of Piso, is, that although he describes these coendous in two separate and distinct articles, and seems to look on them as different species, he represents both by the same figure: which,