

The COQUALLIN, or VARIED
SQUIRREL*.

THIS animal, which was sent to me from America, under the name of the orange squirrel, I recognised to be the same with that which Fernandez calls *qualucallotquapachli*, or *coziocotoqualliu* †. But, as these Mexican words are difficult to pronounce, I have abridged the last into *coquallin*. It is not a squirrel, though it resembles that animal in figure, and in business of tail; for it differs from the squirrel not only in several external characters, but in its dispositions and manners.

The coquallin is much larger than the squirrel: *In duplam fere crescit magnitudinem*, says Fernandez. It is a handsome animal, and its colours are very remarkable. The belly is of a fine yellow colour, and the head, as well as the body, are variegated with white, black, brown, and orange. Like the squirrel, it covers itself with its tail; but it has no pencils of hair at the tips of the ears; it mounts not upon trees; and

* Squirrel with plain ears; the upper part of the body varied with black, white, and brown, and the belly tawny. It is twice the size of the common squirrel; Pennant's *Synops. of Zool.* p. 285.

† Fernandez. *Hist. Anim. Nov. Hispan.* p. 2.



COQUALLIN.

it dwells, like the ground squirrel, in holes, and under the roots of trees, where it brings forth its young. It lays up grain and fruits for nourishment during the winter. It is timid and crafty, and so wild that it can never be tamed.

The coquallin seems to be peculiar to the South American regions. The white and orange squirrels of the East Indies are much smaller, and their colours are uniform. They are genuine squirrels, which dwell and bring forth upon trees. But the coquallin, and ground squirrel of America, live under the earth like rabbits, and have no relation to squirrels but what arises from their figure.