

groups generically. Attention has recently been called to the generic distinctness of these groups by Pocock⁴ he adopting for the banded mongooses Gray's unavailable name *Ariela*. He also calls attention to the fact that the inclusion of the two groups under *Crossarchus* was due to erroneous information concerning the structure of the anal glands. Before meeting with Pocock's paper I had become strongly impressed with their incongruity and their evident generic distinctness.

Herpestes Illiger (1811), genotype,⁵ *Viverra ichneumon* Linné, after almost universal employ for three fourths of a century, was hastily and, as it now appears, needlessly displaced in 1907⁶ by *Mungos* Geoffroy and Cuvier and immediately the latter became current for the greater part of the mongooses of both Africa and Asia. It should now be returned to its time-honored place in nomenclature, through the allocation of *Mungos* to its proper station.

As already shown, not only is *Mungos* untenable as a genus name for any Indian mongoose, but also the species name *mungo* is equally a misnomer when applied in the same connection, it belonging unquestionably to the banded mongoose group of Africa.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF BEAVER FROM NORTH DAKOTA

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In attempting to identify the beavers of North Dakota, for inclusion in my report on the mammals of the State, I find it necessary to apply a new subspecific name to those occupying the Missouri River drainage. Strange to say the specimens show closer affinity with those of the Rio Grande drainage, than with those in the same State in the streams flowing into Hudson Bay. Under permit from the State Game Commission, I was allowed to collect two specimens in Apple Creek, about 7 miles east of Bismarck, and there are a number of additional skulls from along the Missouri and Little Missouri Rivers. While it is very desirable to obtain more material, and especially skins taken at

⁴ On the severance of *Ariela* Gray (= *Mungos* s.s.) from *Crossarchus* see Pocock, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1916, p. 350 and text figures on pp. 353, 356, 360, 369.

⁵ By subsequent designation, Anderson, Yunnan Exped., 1878, p. 171; Thomas, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1882, p. 63.

⁶ Cf. Thomas, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), XX, p. 119, footnote.

different seasons of the year, the specimens available at present are sufficient to show reliable characters. A much more extended study will be necessary to determine the limits of range of this form and whether it conforms strictly to the drainage system of the Missouri River or only a part of it. The form may be known by the following description:

***Castor canadensis missouriensis* subsp. nov.**

Type from Apple Creek, 7 miles east of Bismarck, North Dakota. Male, immature, No. 205763, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. Collected September 1, 1914, by Vernon Bailey. Original No. 9,703.

General characters:—Slightly smaller than *canadensis* and much paler and duller brown. Skull more triangular in outline, not so massive and heavy; much like that of *mexicanus*, shorter and heavier than that of *frondator*. From *mexicanus* the colors differ in being noticeably duller and darker; from *frondator*, duller, and not so rusty.

Color of type specimen in fresh short September fur, back from nose to tail, rich hazel brown; duller on sides, and more yellowish on sides of face and neck; lowerparts smoky grayish brown, with a touch of light chestnut at base of tail and over tops of feet. Young of year almost exactly the same in coloration. Specimens from the Yellowstone Park (Yanceys), in long winter fur, are slightly brighter hazel over the back, but very similar otherwise.

Skull of type specimen not sufficiently developed for fair comparison with old individuals, but agreeing in general characters with adults from the same region. A fully adult skull in the National Museum Collection, No. 2377, labeled "Upper Missouri, Lieutenant Warren," and another good skull from old Fort Stevenson (McLean County), also show the triangular shape, light structure, and narrow interorbital region of this form.

Measurements of type in the flesh (probably 18 months old and not fully grown)—Total length, 900; tail, 270; hind foot, 170; naked part of tail, length, 230, width, 130 mm. Skull, basal length, 110; nasals, 41 (22.4 wide); zygomatic width, 87; mastoid width, 60; interorbital width, 21; postorbital width of brain case, 45; alveolar length of upper molar series, 27.5 mm. Measurements of skull No. 2377, U. S. National Museum Collection, from Upper Missouri, basal length, 130; nasals, 49; zygomatic width, 102; mastoid width, 67; interorbital width, 25; postorbital width of brain case, 48 alveolar length of upper molar series, 32 mm. Weight of type specimen estimated at 35 or 40 pounds.