

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW WEASEL FROM COSTA RICA.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

The weasel of Costa Rica has been commonly referred by authors to *Mustela affinis* Gray, of Colombia, but in making general comparisons in connection with the identification of specimens from Panama I find that Costa Rican examples represent a new form which is described below.

Mustela costaricensis sp. nov.

COSTA RICAN WEASEL.

Type from San José, Costa Rica. No. 13710, young adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by Dr. C. H. Van Patten.

General characters.—Closely allied to *affinis*, but somewhat larger; color about the same; audital bullæ relatively larger, less flattened. Similar to *tropicalis* and *perdus*, but white facial markings reduced to narrow streaks, or absent (broad and conspicuous in *tropicalis* and *perdus*).

Color.—Upper parts, including outer sides of legs and feet, blackish brown or chestnut, passing gradually into nearly pure black on neck and head; under parts from median line of belly to upper part of thighs and arms varying from buffy yellow to orange buff, paling on throat and chin to pure white; white facial markings absent in type, but present in some specimens, varying from a few isolated hairs to very narrow white streaks across forehead and cheeks; tail like back, except tip, which is black all round.

Skull.—Similar to that of *affinis*, but larger; braincase more elongated; audital bullæ relatively larger, less flattened, the anterior borders projecting more prominently from cranium. General form much as in *tropicalis* and *perdus*, but audital bullæ flatter.

Measurements.—Skull of type (skin measurements not available): Condylbasal length, 53.7; zygomatic breadth, 29; interorbital breadth, 11.7; audital bullæ, 14.5 x 8; alveolar length of upper molariform tooth-row, 12.7.

Remarks.—The Costa Rican weasel is somewhat intermediate in char-



acters between *tropicalis* and *perdus* of southern Mexico and *affinis* as represented by specimens from various localities from Panama southward and including a series of 10 from Merida, Venezuela, identified by Mr. Oldfield Thomas and assumed to be typical. It is like *affinis* in color, but in the elongation of the braincase and form of audital bullæ seems to show gradation toward the bridled weasels of Mexico.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 5, from Costa Rica, as follows: San José (type locality), 1; Navarro, 1; without definite localities, 3.