

THE TYPE LOCALITY OF PECARI TAJACU.

The Linnæan name *Sus tajacu** has been applied by recent mammalogists, almost without exception, to the South American collared peccary. There is now no misunderstanding as to its use in this group rather than to one of the larger white-lipped peccaries (*Tayassu*). Recently, however, Thomas has proposed,† by use of a consistent method for determining bases of all Linnæan mammal names of 1758, to fix the type locality of *Sus tajacu* in Mexico. Practical and convenient as it is in most cases, this method is faulty in the case of the peccary, as the name has already been definitely fixed on a South American species by earlier workers.

Linnæus gave the range of his *Sus tajacu* as "Mexico, Panama, Brazil." Cope,‡ in reporting on a collection of mammals from Brazil, separated the peccary of Texas as a new species, thus virtually, as "first reviser," restricting the Linnæan *tajacu* to Brazil. Mearns,§ Bangs,|| and Merriam,¶ the next writers to describe new forms, did so with the belief that Cope's action was settled and definite. Bangs even remarked that "when Prof. Cope named the Texan peccary *angulatus* he irrevocably restricted the Linnæan name *tajacu* to the peccary of southern Brazil." In this particular case the selection of Mexico as the type locality is open to further question because the final basis for this fixation, "Tyson's description of what he calls a Mexican Musk-Hog," refers as much to South America as to Mexico. Tyson,** in describing the anatomy of the animal which came under his observation, gives no clew as to the origin of the specimen and simply uses the name "*Aper Mexicanus Moschiferus* or Mexico Musk Hog" as we would say Carolina wren, English sparrow, or Chinese pheasant, regardless of where the specimen was captured. So far as can be ascertained from a reading of Tyson's account, his specimens may well have come from some South American port.

Before this proposed change of names goes further, it seems important to consider all these facts. Except from evidence that might be furnished by the discovery of a type specimen, it seems to me that it is not possible to change the type locality of *Pecari tajacu* to Mexico, as an actual first reviser has already fixed it in Brazil.

—N. Hollister.

A NEW NAME FOR THE WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT.

The name in use for the white-tailed jack rabbit of the Great Plains, *Lepus campestris* Bachman (Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, vol. 7, p. 349, 1837), is preoccupied by *Lepus cuniculus campestris* Meyer (Mag. f. Thiergesch., vol. 1, p. 55, 1790), a synonym of *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. The *Lepus campestris* of Bachman may be replaced by *Lepus townsendii campanius*. The two western subspecies of this jack rabbit will be known as *Lepus townsendii townsendii* Bachman and *Lepus townsendii sierræ* Merriam.

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* Syst. Nat., 10 ed., vol. 1, p. 50. 1758.

† Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1911, p. 140.

‡ Amer. Nat., vol. 23, p. 147. February, 1889.

§ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 20, p. 469. 1897.

|| Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 12, pp. 164-165. August 10, 1898.

¶ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 14, pp. 102, 119-124. July 19, 1901.

** Phil. Trans., 1683, pp. 359-385.