

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

THE STATUS OF *CEBUS IMITATOR* THOMAS.

A white-throated capuchin from Boquete, western Panama, was described by Mr. Oldfield Thomas* as *Cebus imitator*. The characters ascribed to this monkey in contrasting it with *Cebus hypoleucus* (Humboldt), from Rio Sinu, Colombia, were elongated frontal tufts, present in the female, and certain color differences which Dr. J. A. Allen† and Dr. D. G. Elliot‡ have regarded as within the range of specific variation. Both authors have placed the name in synonymy. Since the publication of *C. imitator*, *C. hypoleucus* has been synonymized with *Cebus capucinus* (Linnæus), and the latter name is, therefore, currently taken to apply to an animal ranging from Colombia northward into Middle America. In studying specimens from Panama and adjoining territory, however, I find two forms differing so conspicuously from each other in dentition that they seem worthy of subspecific recognition: One, ranging from eastern Panama southward into South America and characterized by the comparative narrowness, or reduced transverse extent of the premolars, above and below; the other, inhabiting western Panama and adjacent parts of Costa Rica and distinguished by the decidedly greater width or transverse extent of these teeth.

For the proper application of names to the two closely related forms it is necessary to fix on a type region for the Linnæan species. Since *Cebus capucinus* (Linnæus) most probably came from South America, and has been identified with *C. hypoleucus* (Humboldt), of Colombia, it seems advisable to assign the typical form of the former to the type region of the latter. This disposition of the Linnæan animal leaves the name *Cebus imitator* Thomas available for the capuchin occupying western Panama. *Cebus capucinus* will therefore stand subspecifically as follows:

Cebus capucinus capucinus (Linnæus), northern Colombia.

Cebus capucinus imitator Thomas, Boquete, Panama.

—E. A. Goldman.

* Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 7, XI, April, 1903, p. 376.

† Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., February 29, 1904, p. 89.

‡ Review of the Primates, 1912, p. 84.