

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSES OF NEW MAMMALS OF THE  
GENERA LYNX, UROCYON, SPILOGALE, AND MEPHITIS,  
FROM THE MEXICAN BOUNDARY LINE.

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THIS is the fifth of a series of papers giving preliminary descriptions of the new mammals collected on the recent survey of the boundary between Mexico and the United States.<sup>1</sup> Detailed descriptions, with illustrations of the new forms, and comparisons with their allies will appear later in the report on the collections made by the International Boundary Commission.

LYNX RUFUS EREMICUS, new subspecies.

DESERT LYNX.

*Type*.—No. 60676, U.S.N.M. (Collection International Boundary Commission.) Skin and skull. Adult male, from New River, 6 miles northwest of Laguna Station, on the Colorado Desert, in San Diego County, California. Collected by Dr. Mearns, May 5, 1894. Original number, 3506.

*Description of type*.—In winter pelage. Above pale yellowish brown, mixed with gray and black, obscurely spotted and striped with brown and blackish from the nape to the root of the tail. Legs ochraceous-buff, mixed with grayish. Under side of body and of tail, white. Chest, belly, and inner side of limbs, spotted or banded with black. The sides and outside of limbs are spotted with yellowish brown. Tail, reddish brown above, white below, with a subterminal spot of black. Ears, pale gray, with a blackish spot at base, and black on apex and terminal pencil; the usual gray spot, in this form, extends as a band clear across the convexity of the ear; inner surface of ear, white. Under side of hind foot with a narrow longitudinal line of black, bordered by sooty. Crown and cheeks with obsolete rusty stripes. Sides of

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVII, 1894, pp. 129-130; XVIII, 1895, pp. 443-447, 551-565; XIX, 1896, pp. 137-140.

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upper lip with four lines of small black spots; edge of lip, black posteriorly. Tail, with about seven transverse dorsal bars of black, which become obsolete toward the base. Length, 925 mm.; tail vertebrae, 170 (to end of hairs, 195); ear from crown, 75; ear from anterior base, 82; length of ear pencil, 23; distance between eyes, 33; longest whisker, 90; from tip of nose to angle of mouth, 50; to eye, 48; to center of pupil, 59; to ear, 117; to tip of ear, 202; to occiput, 140; to end of outstretched hind limb, 1,190; fore limb, measured from olecranon process to end of longest claw, 287; length of fore foot, 133; longest claw of manus (chord), 18; hind limb from knee-joint to end of claws, 325; length of hind foot, 185; longest claw of pes, 18.

*Geographical range.*—This subspecies inhabits the eastern and western desert tracts, on the Mexican line. In the "Eastern Desert Tract" its ears are shorter, and its color appears to be redder in summer.

#### LYNX RUFUS CALIFORNICUS, new subspecies.

##### CALIFORNIAN LYNX.

*Type.*—No.  $\frac{15888}{37163}$ , U.S.N.M. Skin and skull. Adult female, from San Diego, California; collected February 2, 1856, by Doctor J. F. Hammond, who recorded the following measurements: Length of head,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches; body, 28; tail, 7.

*Description of type.*—In winter coat. Similar to *Lynx rufus texensis* (Allen), but browner, less spotted, and with larger ears. Coloration dark. Above reddish brown, considerably mixed with gray and black; decidedly dusky in the median line, with two parallel, interrupted, black lines extending from the shoulders to the root of the tail. Outer surface of limbs, and sides, ochraceous-buff, mixed with gray and spotted with yellowish brown. Inner surface of limbs, under surface of head and body, and under side and tip of tail, white. Chest with a broad, rusty-grayish collar which is conspicuously spotted with black. Under side of body and inner surface of limbs banded or spotted with black. Under side of hind foot with the usual median black stripe. Ears much larger than those of *Lynx rufus*, but marked much the same; white inside, edged with grayish white, and black on the convex surface, the black contributing a liberal terminal pencil, and inclosing a small triangular patch of gray. The upper lip has a large, black marginal spot on each side.

*Geographical range.*—This form of lynx occupies the "Pacific Coast Tract"<sup>1</sup> of California and Lower California.

<sup>1</sup> See Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIX, 1896, p. 137, for definition of geographic differentiation areas on the Mexican boundary line.

## UROCYON CINEREOARGENTEUS TEXENSIS, new subspecies.

## TEXAN GRAY FOX.

*Type*.—No.  $\frac{130}{116}$ , U.S.N.M. Skin and skull. From San Pedro, near Eagle Pass, Texas; collected in 1851 by Arthur Schott, a naturalist of the old Mexican boundary survey, under Lieut. Col. W. H. Emory.

*Description of type*.—Similar to *U. cinereoargenteus*, but paler, with larger ears, and a longer tail. The markings of the limbs, sides of neck, and base of ears, which are chestnut or cinnamon-rufous in the typical form, are ochraceous. Height of ear above crown, 80 mm.; length of hind foot, 128; length of caudal vertebrae, 350.

Another specimen taken by the same collector on the lower Rio Grande (No.  $\frac{201}{175}$ , U.S.N.M.), agrees with the above, except in having a few gray-and-black hairs on the limbs, and a little darker coloration. It is probable that these two specimens represent different seasonal pelages, as that of the last-mentioned example is coarser and harsher. Other specimens from northern Mexico and extreme southwestern Texas approach *Urocyon cinereoargenteus scottii*.

This subspecies inhabits the Texan region, and finds its nearest analogue in the form inhabiting the Pacific coast of southern and Lower California, described below, the two being separated on the Mexican border by the range of *U. c. scottii* of the interior region.

## UROCYON CINEREOARGENTEUS CALIFORNICUS, new subspecies.

## CALIFORNIAN GRAY FOX.

*Type*.—No. 62873, U.S.N.M. Skin and skull. Adult male, from the San Jacinto Mountains, altitude 8,000 feet, Riverside County, California; collected by Mr. A. W. Anthony, July 6, 1895. Original number, 41.

*Description of type*.—Similar to *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, but smaller and paler, with larger ears and relatively longer tail. Length, 890 mm.; caudal vertebrae, 330; ear from crown, 85; length of hind foot, 120. Compared with the gray fox of New York, the skull is smaller, relatively broader, with a higher brain case, and with the temporal crests much more widely separated. The coronoid process of the mandible is more nearly vertical.

*Remarks*.—This is a dark coast form, differing widely from that of the interior region, which I have named<sup>1</sup> *U. c. scottii*. It is about as darkly colored as the Texas gray fox, described above, but differs from it considerably in the shades of coloring, and also somewhat in proportions. It differs from *U. c. texensis* chiefly in having larger ears, and grayer, less fulvous coloring.

The gray foxes of northern California are almost like those from New

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., III, 1891, p. 336.

York and Illinois. The color of the back is about the same, but the coloration as a whole is paler; and the California animal lacks the black down the fore legs. The species ranges north to Washington.

**SPILOGALE AMBIGUA, new species.**

**CHIHUAHUAN LITTLE STRIPED SKUNK.**

*Type*.—No.  $\frac{203002}{35606}$ , U.S.N.M. (Collection International Boundary Commission.) Adult male from Eagle Mountain, Chihuahua, Mexico (about four miles south of Monument No. 15, Mexican boundary line), taken March 23, 1892, by Doctor Mearns and F. X. Holzner. Original number, 1574.

*Description of type*.—Color pattern as usual in this genus. In markings scarcely differing from *S. gracilis*, except that the white spots on the thighs and at the base of the tail are smaller. The lowest stripes on the sides are as broad as they are in *S. gracilis*, and, consequently, much broader than those of *S. leucoparia*. There is more black on the under side of the tail at base than in *S. gracilis*.

*Measurements of type*.—Length, from nose to end of vertebræ of tail, 411 mm.; tail vertebræ, 147 (to end of hairs, 287); ear from crown, 11 (from notch 26); distance between eyes, 18; diameter of eye, 6.5; length of longest whisker, 50; from tip of nose to eye, 24; to center of pupil, 28; to ear, 45; to tip of ear, 72; to occiput, 65; to end of outstretched hind limb, 361; fore limb from olecranon, 68; length of fore foot, 34; longest claw of fore foot, 9; hind limb from knee-joint, 82; length of hind foot, 43; longest claw of hind foot, 6.5.

*Cranial and dental characters*.—The skull is almost as high as that of *S. ringens*, with the frontoparietal region almost as much elevated. The zygomatic arches are more spreading, the nasal orifice much smaller, the postorbital processes more peg-like, and the anterior teeth of the lateral row more crowded. Altogether the skull and teeth are almost exactly intermediate between those of *S. gracilis* of southern Arizona and the eastern group of species having high-and-narrow skulls.

*General remarks*.—This is a small, slender species, with much shorter ears than *S. gracilis*. The pelage is soft and long, with the parts which are ordinarily jet black faded to grayish black. With cranial characters intermediate between those of the eastern and western sections of the genus, this species is the connectant. Its closest relationship is with the *Spilogale* of central Mexico, and not with *S. indianola* of the Gulf coast of Texas, from which it is separated by the range of *S. leucoparia*, a species belonging to the low-skulled western group inhabiting the middle Rio Grande region. This species is at present known only from the rocky hills east of the Mimbres Valley and Lake Palomas, on the Mexican line.

## MEPHITIS OCCIDENTALIS HOLZNERI, new subspecies.

## SAN DIEGO SKUNK.

*Type*.—No.  $\frac{8065}{6422}$ , American Museum of Natural History, New York; collected July 3, 1894, at San Isidro Ranch, Lower California, by Frank X. Holzner. Original number, 1554.

*Description of type*.—Similar to *Mephitis occidentalis* Baird, but smaller. Skull, with mastoids much less prominent, and intermastoid breadth, consequently, relatively much less. The length of the palatal floor and rostral portion of skull are relatively greater, this being correlated with the greater distance of the palate from the foramen magnum. Mastoid bulla much smaller, but more prominent. The length of the lateral tooth-row and breadth across molars are relatively greater, the dentition being heavier. The foramen magnum is smaller and more nearly spherical. Color black, with the usual longitudinal white stripe on the upper surface of the head. The white dorsal area begins broadly just back of the ears, forms a triangular patch on the nape, bifurcates well forward, and extends backward as two narrow white stripes which are continued on to the sides of the tail and meet about the middle of its upper surface. The rest of the caudal hair is white at base and black at tip. Under surface of body wholly black. Length, 665 mm.; tail to end of vertebrae, 273; tail to end of hairs, 360; ear from crown, 13.5; length of hind foot, 72.