

the genus he called *Dicotyles* and retained the latter name for the one designated *Notophorus*.

We may now retain the time-honored names *Dicotyles* and *Dicotylidae* and still adhere to rules of priority in the revival of the name *Tayassu*.—*Theo. Gill*.

### The technical name of the Virginia Deer.

Dr. J. A. Allen\* has recently proposed to change the technical name of the Virginia Deer from *Odocoileus americanus* to *Dama virginiana*, on the ground that the latter was used by Zimmermann† in correct nomenclatorial form many years before the proposal of *Odocoileus* by Rafinesque,‡ and in the same year as the publication of the specific name *americanus* by Erxleben.§ Zimmermann's terminology, however, is arranged with such disregard for the rules of binomial nomenclature that many of the names it includes are not entitled to recognition. A few instances will make this apparent. The genus *Canis* contains seven species designated as follows: 1. *Canis familiaris*, 2. *Canis lupus*, 3. *Hyena*, 4. *Hyena maculata*, 5. *Vulpes*, 6. *Lupus aurcus*, 7. *Canis thous*. The first six species of *Viverra* are: 1. *Ichneumon*, 2. *Zibetha*, 3. *Genetta*, 4. *Fossana*, 5. *Putorius capensis*, 6. *Viverra tetradactyla*. Four of the species of *Lepus* are entered as follows: 3. *Lepus pusillus*, 4. *Cuniculus*, 5. *Cuniculus insigniter caudatus, coloris leporini*, 6. *Lepus capensis*. Under *Jerboa* we find: 1. *Mus jaculus*, 2. *Cuniculus pumilio saliens*, 3. *Mus longipes*, 4. *Yerboa*, 5. *Yerboa gigantea*. Finally as species of *Cervus*: 1. *Alee*, 2. *Tarandus*, 3. *Dama*, 4. *Cervus Elaphus*, 5. *Cervus Axis*, 6. *Cervus procinus*, 7. *Dama Virginia*, 8. *Cervus Capreolus*, 9. *Cervus Pygargus*, 10. *Cervus* (vel potius) *Capreolus mexicanus*, 11. *Cervus camelopardalis*. It is obvious that such names as *Hyena*, *Lupus*, *Putorius*, *Cuniculus*, *Yerboa*, *Dama*, and *Capreolus* were not proposed as generic terms, and that they cannot be considered as valid even when by chance they were used for members of modern generic groups. Most of them appear in the index or on the map of geographic distribution, for Zimmermann was consistent in the application of his system, the main feature of which was, in Dr. Allen's own words (l. c., p. 13-14) "...to cite the names given by previous writers as these authors used them, regardless of whether the generic element of the name conformed or not with his own genera." He also made free use of Latinized vernacular names without attempting to harmonize them with his generic terminology. By no code of nomenclature can terms applied in this manner be construed as valid technical names. Therefore unless some more cogent reason can be shown for its abandonment the current name *Odocoileus americanus* should continue in use for the Virginia Deer.—*Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.*

\*Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XVI, pp. 18-20, February 1, 1902.

†Specimen Zoologiæ Geographicae, p. 532, also in index and on map, 1777.

‡Atlantic Journal, I, p. 109, Autumn of 1832.

§Syst. Regni Anim., I, p. 312, 1777.