

It is probable that the earlier ancestral forms of the Delphinidae were allied to *Squalodon* and that the families Squalodontidae and Delphinidae are offshoots from a common stem, though from the little that is known of the vertebral column and limbs of the squalodonts the hypothesis still appears tenable that the Delphinidae originated from a stock distinct from the former, but having somewhat similar tuberculate teeth.

The teeth of the fossil species have been compared with the type-teeth of *Delphinodon mento* and *D. wymani*, with the result that it can be referred with certainty to that genus, and is possibly identical with the latter species. The genus *Delphinodon*, therefore, which has hitherto been regarded as belonging to the Squalodontidae, is now to be transferred to the family Delphinidae.

A full description of the fossil skeleton, with illustrations, will be published by the National Museum at an early date.

—*Frederick W. True.*

NOTE ON THE MUS COMMISSARIUS OF MEARNS.

[By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

In 1905, Dr. Edgar A. Mearns described a house mouse from Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, as *Mus commissarius*, basing his account on two specimens.* The U. S. National Museum contains ten additional examples of this animal, two from San Fernando de Union, Luzon, six from Tokio, Japan, and two from the vicinity of Misaki, south of Tokio. The Japanese specimens agree in all essential characters with those from the Philippines, and the series as a whole represents a form easily distinguishable from *Mus musculus* by its cranial characters. The skull is slightly smaller than that of the cosmopolitan animal, but the teeth are disproportionately reduced and the distance between the maxillary tooth-rows is appreciably less. The auditory bullae are also, as pointed out in the original description, somewhat reduced in size.

—*Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.*

ON THE CORRECT NAME OF THE INCA TERN.

Mr. Oberholser has shown (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Quarterly Issue, Vol. 48, part I, May 13, 1905, 61) that *Nania* Boie is untenable as the generic name for the Inca Tern. He adopts *Inca* Jardine (Contr. Orn. 1850, 32) but unfortunately this name is also untenable on account of *Inca* Lepeletier and Serville (Encycl. Meth., Zoology, Vol. X, 1825, 380) for a genus of Coleoptera. The next available name is apparently *Larosterna* Blyth (Cat. Birds Mus. As. Soc., 1852, 293) and the species will stand as, *Larosterna inca* (Lesson).

—*J. H. Riley.*

* Proc. U. S. National Museum, XXVIII, p. 449, May 13, 1905.