

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

ELLIMMA, A GENUS OF FOSSIL HERRINGS.

Professor Theodore D. A. Cockerell calls my attention to the fact that the name *Ellipes*, given by me (Annals Carnegie Museum VII, No. 1, 1912, page 23) to a genus of fossil Clupeoid fishes from the Eocene Shales of Riacho Doce, Brazil, was preoccupied by Scudder (Psyche, IX, p. 308, 1902) for a genus of crickets. The genus of extinct herrings may then be renamed **Ellimma**, the type being *Ellipes bramneri* Jordan.

—David Starr Jordan.

THE TYPE SPECIES OF *CUNICULUS* BRISSON.

The type species of the genera of mammals dating from Brisson, *Regnum Animale*, 1762, were fixed by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in 1895 (Science, N. S., I, p. 375). With the exception of *Cuniculus* all were fixed by tautonymy or monotypy. Working with the original A. O. U. code, Doctor Merriam fixed the type of *Cuniculus* by elimination as *Cuniculus cauda longissima* Brisson = *Dipus alactaga* Olivier = *Cuniculus alactaga* (Olivier), 1800. According to Article 30 of the International Code this disposition of *Cuniculus* is not permissible, because *C. cauda longissima* was placed in brackets at the end of the series; and the introduction to the work explains that species so placed were doubtfully referred to the genus. Aside from *Allactaga*, which is thus clearly not to be replaced by *Cuniculus*, Brisson's genus contains representatives of the five modern genera *Dasyprocta*, *Agouti*, *Lemmus*, *Citellus* and *Cavia*, all of later date. As the type can not be fixed from this assemblage by any other rule, it must be selected. To avoid as much confusion as possible I propose that it be fixed on *Paca*, Brisson, p. 99, based on *Cuniculus major palustris, fasciis albis notatus* Barrere, 1741. *Cuniculus* Brisson, 1762, thus antedates and replaces *Agouti* Lacépède 1799, and the forms included in this genus become—

- Cuniculus paca nelsoni* (Goldman).
- Cuniculus paca paca* (Linnaeus).
- Cuniculus paca virgatus* (Bangs).
- Cuniculus sierræ* (Thomas).
- Cuniculus sublævis* (Gervais).
- Cuniculus taczanowskii* (Stolzmann).

—N. Hollister.