

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW WEASELS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

BY HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON.

The Biological Survey Collection contains specimens of two undescribed weasels which may be characterized as follows:

***Mustela primulina* sp. nov.**

Type, subadult ♀, skin and skull, No. 168,006, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection, from 5 miles northeast of Avilla, Jasper County, Missouri; collected May 11, 1905, by Hartley H. T. Jackson. Original No. 552.

General characters.—A weasel of the *longicauda* group, characterized by its bright color, especially of the under parts. Differs from both *longicauda* and *spadix* in having the color of the back much darker; underparts yellow, *not buff*, and not continuous on feet and toes.

Color.—Upper parts Brussels brown,* darker on the middorsal line, slightly lighter on the flanks; hind feet uniform in color with back; soles and toes of fore feet white; tail unicolor with back, slightly lighter beneath, with distinct black tip; face and top of head dark warm sepia; chin white; ventral parts primuline yellow, slightly darker on the throat and midventral line; anal region Brussels brown.

Measurements.—Type ♀, flesh measurements of skin by collector: total length, (324.5); tail vertebrae (part gone), (89.5); hind foot, 44. Skull of type: interorbital constriction, 10; maxillary tooth row, 11.5; mandibular tooth row, 13.7. Skull of topotype, young ♂, No. 168,007: condylobasal length, 46.4; postorbital constriction, 11.7; interorbital constriction, 9.7; maxillary tooth row, 11.3; mandibular tooth row, 13.4.

Remarks.—The above description of *Mustela primulina* is based upon two imperfect specimens, a subadult ♀ and a young ♂. The two were killed by dogs, May 11, 1905, and were received by me several days later in a badly mutilated and decomposed condition. The skulls of both are crushed; the skin of the type specimen lacks about one-third of the tail; the skin of the topotype consists of the scalp only. Notes made at the

* Colors here used are those of Robert Ridgway in "Color Standards and Nomenclature," 1912.

time the specimens were received read: "Male received same date; some larger, much darker on the back and deeper, brighter yellow on the belly."

***Mustela campestris* sp. nov.**

Type, adult ♂, skin and skull No. 171,490, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection, from Beemer, Nebraska; collected April 18, 1911, by Grover Sharp.

General characters.—Similar to *Mustela rixosus* in color but slightly paler; white of the underparts more extensive than in *rixosus* and encroaching upon the fore feet; toes of both front and hind feet white.

Color.—Upper parts uniform Prouts brown, slightly darkened on the face; tail same color as back, with a few white hairs in the tip; ventral parts white.

Cranial characters.—Skull about the size of that of *rixosus*, but narrower postorbitally; brain case narrower than in *rixosus* and depressed anteriorly; palate narrower than in either *rixosus* or *alleghehiensis*; postpalatal notch short and narrow; audital bullae flatter and less angular than in *rixosus*, and the region between the audital bulla and the glenoid fossa less inflated.

Measurements.—Type ♂, flesh measurements of skin by collector: total length, 184; tail vertebrae, 32; hind foot, 19. Skull of type: condylo-basal length, 30.9; zygomatic breadth, 15; postorbital constriction, 6.4; interorbital constriction, 6.2; maxillary tooth row, 7.1; mandibular tooth row, 7.9.

Remarks.—The description of this weasel is based upon a single specimen which was sexed "female" by the collector, but which, judging from cranial characters, is undoubtedly a male. Additional specimens from other localities may possibly show intergradation with *rixosus* or *alleghehiensis*.