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A New Kinkajou from México and a New Hooded Skunk from Central America

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In a collection of mammals from northwestern Chiapas, México, recently made by students of Walla Walla College under the supervision of Dr. Ernest S. Booth, there is a specimen of an unusually small kinkajou. The small size and long, thick, soft pelage of this specimen seem to warrant recognition by name of a geographical form inhabiting the highlands of northwestern Chiapas.

A review of the Central American hooded skunks in the American Museum of Natural History collection shows that the specimens listed by J. A. Allen, 1908, 1910, from Nicaragua as *Mephitis macroura vittata* differ sufficiently in cranial characters from named forms to be recognized as a distinct subspecies. At the time, Allen apparently based his diagnosis on measurements alone, without actually seeing typical specimens of *M. m. vittata* from southern Oaxaca. This new hooded skunk and the new kinkajou mentioned above are described below.

Potos flavus boothi, new subspecies

CHIAPAS KINKAJOU

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 172183, skin and skull, adult female; Pueblo Nuevo, Solistahuacan, about 60 miles north of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, México. Altitude approximately 7000 feet; collectors, Percy Clifton and Brian S. Bull; February 8, 1956. The type skin is in first-class condition, and the skull is complete except for a break in the supraoccipital.

GENERAL CHARACTERS: A small, golden brown kinkajou with rela-

tively long, thick pelage, short tail, small ears, small feet, and a small skull.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: General color of upper parts about Clay Color,¹ the hairs Warm Buff and lightly tipped with Sepia; top of head more heavily overlain with Sepia than back; face, cheeks, and lips near Mummy Brown; ears about like back; outer side of hind limbs paler than back; toes on fore feet dusky, as usual in the group; under parts, including inner sides of fore and hind limbs, Ochraceous Buff; tail above like back, becoming more brownish towards tip, under side duller and darker than upper side.

Skull small and slender, the superior outline evenly oval, with only a very slight depression in the postorbital region; braincase rather narrow; zygomatic arches slender; bullae small; rostrum slender; molariform teeth small and tooth rows short.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Skin: total length, 870 (997²); length of tail, 408 (513); hind foot, 90 [naked sole to end of claws (dry), 59.5] (90). Skull: greatest length exclusive of incisors, 87.5 (95.4); condylo-basal length, 81.5 (88.2); palatilar length, 34.6; interorbital breadth, 20.5 (20); postorbital constriction, 21 (18.8); breadth across mastoid processes, 44.7 (47.2); breadth of braincase, 38.1 (37.8); zygomatic breadth, 58.2 (60.8); width of rostrum over roots of canines, 19.9; width of palate across molars, 23.5; upper tooth row, from front of canine to back of last molar (alveoli), 24.8 (25.8).

REMARKS: *Potos flavus boothi* appears to be a small, mountain subspecies, characterized chiefly by its small size and long, thick pelage. The type specimen is fully adult, with all the sutures in the skull fully closed and fused; the parietal ridges are rather widely separated but this is not unusual even in very old females. *Potos f. boothi* is similar in general color and cranial characters to *P. f. campechensis* Nelson and Goldman, from Campeche and the Yucatan Peninsula, but it is darker in color, with softer and thicker pelage, and is much smaller in size than the latter. It is decidedly smaller in size and lighter in color than *P. f. astecus* Thomas of the Gulf slope in Veracruz; it differs from *P. f. guerrerensis* Goldman of western México in being of smaller size and in having a shorter and more evenly arched skull. Compared with *P. f. dugesi* Villa

¹Capitalized color terms are from Ridgway, "Color standards and color nomenclature," Washington, D. C., 1912.

²Measurements of the type of *P. f. campechensis*, an adult female, are in parentheses.

from southeastern Chiapas, *P. f. boothi* is much smaller, with a more slender rostrum and longer and thicker pelage.

The type was taken near the summit of the high ridge a few hundred yards beyond the property line of Rancho Yerba Buena. The exact locality was a very short distance down the rain-forest slope towards the Gulf of México and almost in the ecotone between the cloud forest on the north side and the drier southern slope. There are two towns named Pueblo Nuevo in Chiapas; one is on the Rio Grijalva some distance northwest of Tuxtla Gutierrez. The present locality, Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacan, is in the mountains north of Tuxtla.

***Mephitis macroura richardsoni*, new subspecies**

RICHARDSON'S HOODED SKUNK

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 30751, skin and skull, adult male; Matagalpa, Nicaragua, altitude 2000 feet; collector, William B. Richardson, March 5, 1910, original No. 708. The type skin is in fair condition, and the skull is complete. In addition to the type, there are one adult male and one subadult female topotypes and three adult males and one adult female from San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua.

GENERAL CHARACTERS: A small subspecies of hooded skunk, with a relatively short tail; smaller than *Mephitis macroura macroura* Lichtenstein from the plateau of central México, about the size of *M. m. vittata* Lichtenstein from southern Oaxaca but differing from the latter in distinctive cranial characters.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: Pelage long and rather silky but not dense; hairs on nape elongated; general color black, with broad white lateral stripes extending from sides of neck to hips; tail black above, white mixed with black below and a few white hairs at tip; a narrow indistinct white facial stripe.

Skull small, with zygomatic arches spreading rather abruptly posteriorly and converging sharply anteriorly; mastoid processes well developed; sagittal crest relatively prominent; interpterygoid space relatively narrow; bullae very small but well rounded; braincase rather narrow and low.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Skin: total length, 640 (630¹); length of tail, 300 (300); hind foot s.u. ?, 50 (50). Skull: greatest length, 62.5 (62.6); condylobasal length, 58.3 (58.5); basal length, 52.0 (52.5);

¹Measurements of an adult male topotype in parentheses.

basilar length, 50.3 (50.5); zygomatic breadth, 39.1 (39.5); greatest mastoid breadth, 33.9 (33.4); width of palate across molars, 23.2 (22.8); breadth across postorbital processes, 19.2 (18.7); interorbital width, 18.4 (17.5); palatal length, 22.5 (23.0); post-palatal length, 30 (29.5); upper tooth row, from front of canine to back of last molar (alveoli), 18.3 (18.5).

REMARKS: *Mephitis m. richardsoni* seems to be a fairly well-marked subspecies, characterized chiefly by its small size and distinctive cranial characters. It is nearest to typical *M. macroura* in cranial characters but is smaller in size and has coarser and thinner pelage than the latter. Compared with *M. m. vittata* from Santa Maria del Mar, Oaxaca, the skull of *M. m. richardsoni* is more slender, with smaller bullae, more strongly developed mastoid processes and sagittal crest, and more angular zygomatic arches; in *M. m. vittata* the zygomata are more nearly parallel to the axis of the skull. The type series are all in the black-backed phase, with white lateral stripes. None of the Nicaraguan series show signs of frontal lesions in the skull. The specimens from San Rafael del Norte, 5000 feet in altitude, have slightly larger skulls than those from Matagalpa but otherwise are indistinguishable from them. Specimens from Honduras recorded by Goodwin, 1942, as *M. m. macroura* are larger than the Nicaraguan specimens of *richardsoni* but average smaller than typical *M. m. macroura*; the majority of these specimens are in the white-backed phase.