

A NEW HOG-NOSED SKUNK

BY FREDERIC W. MILLER

[Plate 5]

The relative scarcity of skunks of the genus *Conepatus* in collections is comparable to the lack of accurate information regarding their distribution. The genus occurs throughout the major portion of South America and ranges north to many points along our southwestern border. Its presence in Colorado, however, was wholly unsuspected. In the JOURNAL OF MAMMALOGY, vol. 2, no. 2, it was reported by Mr. E. R. Warren from the vicinity of Colorado Springs; a matter of note as it extended the known range of the group some hundreds of miles north. Field work by the Colorado Museum of Natural History in Baca County during the past two years has revealed the presence of hog-nosed skunks in that portion of Colorado and specimens from that locality have proven to represent a hitherto undescribed race which it is proposed to call

***Conepatus mesoleucus figginsi*¹ subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, Colorado Museum of Natural History, No. 1961, from Furnace Canyon, western Baca County, Colorado.

Distribution.—Warm Sonoran valleys of Baca and Las Animas Counties Colorado; limits of range unknown.

General characters.—A large, northern race of the *mesoleucus* group most nearly allied to *C. m. mearnsi*.² Skull more massive and rugged and differing in detail.

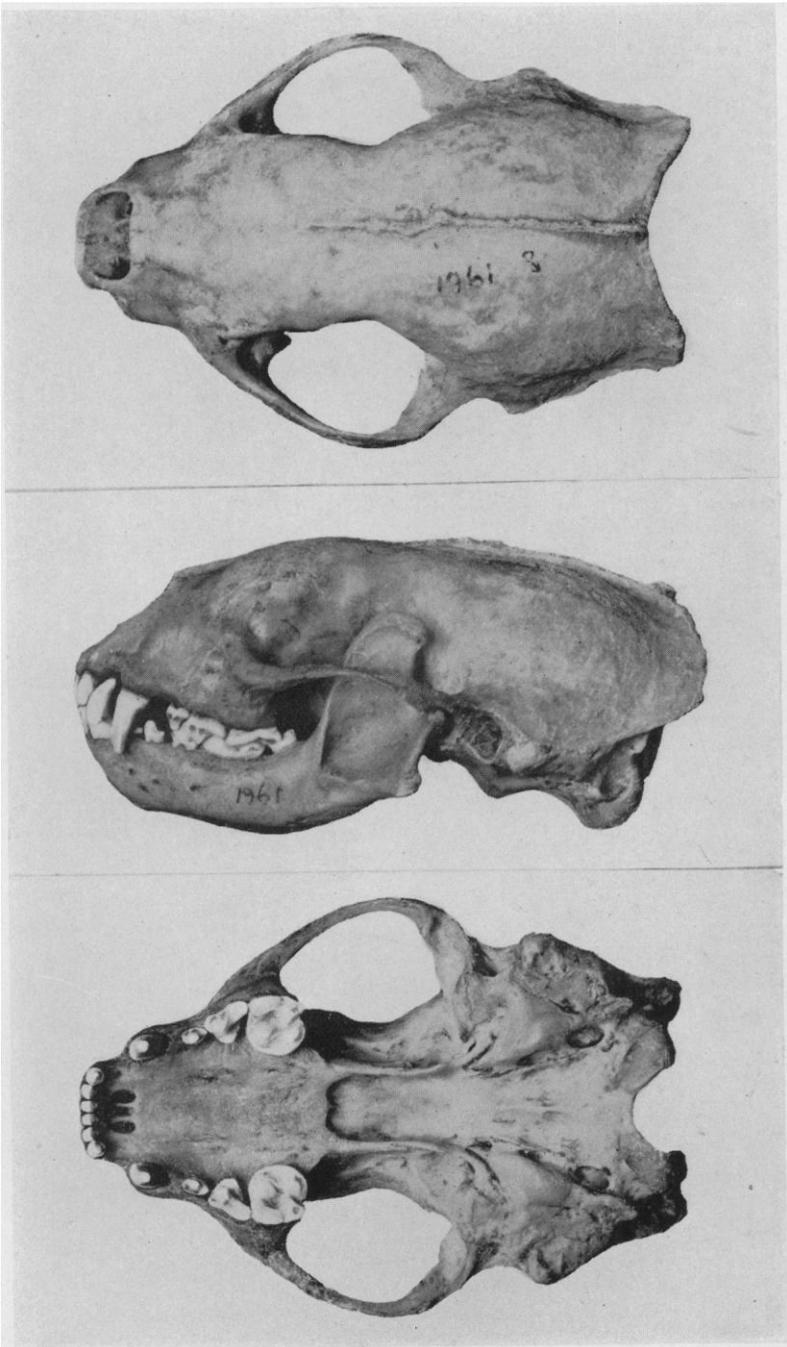
Skull.—Compared with that of *C. m. mearnsi*, the skull is larger, more rugged and angular, with sagittal and occipital crests high and pronounced; zygomata more widely spreading; mastoid breadth greater; postorbitals and frontals much inflated; pterygoid fossa slightly narrower; dentition heavier.

Color.—Dorsal surface from occiput to end of tail, white; sides shiny, jet black, with a small white spot at the base of the ear; underparts dull black with a varying amount of white on the chin.

Measurements.—(Type) Total length, 734; tail vertebrae, 232; hind foot, 77. *Skull* (type), greatest length (median line) 78.2; basilar length, 70; zygomatic breadth, 54; constriction behind zygomata, 41.6; mastoid breadth, 45.2; width of interpterygoid fossa, 8; front of canine to back of last upper molar, 23.2; length of incisor series, 11.5; interorbital breadth, 23.2.

¹ Named for J. D. Figgins, director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, in recognition of his services to Colorado mammalogy.

² The museum is indebted to the U. S. Biological Survey for the loan of a series of *C. m. mearnsi* for comparison, without which this study would be necessarily unsatisfactory.



TYPE SKULL OF *CONEPATUS MESOLEUCUS FIGGINSI*

(Miller; A New Hog-nosed Skunk)

This content downloaded from 132.194.32.30 on Thu, 27 Oct 2016 17:05:08 UTC

All use subject to <http://about.jstor.org/terms>

Remarks.—Of particular note is the extreme depth of the skull with mandibles in situ, which gives the skull a decided bull-dog appearance. Measured on a vertical line across the tips of the nasals (with jaws in place) *figginsi* measures 33 (average of two adult males) as compared with 29 in *mearnsi* (average of two adult males).

Hog-nosed skunks are frequently met with in the vicinity of Furnace Canyon and Carrizo Creek, Baca County, Colorado, though they are not nearly as abundant as the other skunks. The local trappers, however, secure a number annually. They stay largely in the piñon scrub where they root up considerable areas of the sandy soil in search of food. These areas are often forty feet in diameter and are thoroughly worked for a depth of several inches.

Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver.

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF FIVE NEW CHIPMUNKS FROM NORTH AMERICA

BY ARTHUR H. HOWELL

Since the publication of seven new races of *Eutamias* by the writer in 1922,¹ further studies in the group have led to the recognition of four additional forms in this genus and one of the eastern chipmunk (*Tamias*). These new forms are here briefly described in order that the names may be made available for use in advance of the publication of the complete revision of the group, which may be somewhat delayed.

*Tamias striatus fisheri*² subsp. nov.

FISHER CHIPMUNK

Type.—No. 193370, U. S. Nat. Mus. ($\frac{801}{1838}$, Merriam collection); ♀ sub-adult, skin and skull; collected at Merritt's Corners, four miles west of Sing Sing [=Ossining], New York, August 23, 1884, by A. K. Fisher.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Tamias striatus striatus* of the southern Alleghenies, but paler, especially the rump, feet, and sides of head and body; dorsal area much more grayish (less ochraceous or tawny); light dorsal stripes clearer white (less shaded with ochraceous); head and underside of tail averaging paler. Compared with *T. striatus griseus*: Size smaller; sides of head and body averaging darker; gray of upperparts less extensive and slightly darker (especially in winter pelage); underside of tail slightly darker.

¹ Journ. Mamm., vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 178-185, August, 1922.

² Named for Dr. Albert K. Fisher, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who collected the type series.