

GENUS TAMIAS.—ILLIGER.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{2}{2}; \text{ Canine } \frac{0}{0}; \text{ Molar } \frac{5-5}{4-4} = 22.$$

Upper incisors, smooth; lower ones, compressed and sharp; molars, with short, tuberculous crowns.

Nose, pointed; lip, cloven; ears, round, short, not tufted or fringed; cheek-pouches, ample.

Tail, shorter than the body, hairy, sub-distichous, somewhat tapering. Mammæ, exposed; feet, distinct, ambulatory; fore-feet, four toed, with a minute blunt nail in place of a thumb; hind-feet five toed; claws, hooked.

This genus differs from *SCIURUS* in several important particulars. The various species that have been discovered have all the same characteristics, and strongly resemble each other in form, in their peculiar markings and in their habits. In shape they differ from the true squirrels and approach to the spermophiles; they have a sharp convex nose adapted to digging in the earth; they have longer heads, and their ears are placed farther back than those of squirrels; they have a more slender body and shorter extremities. Their ears are rounded, without any tufts on the borders or behind them. They have cheek-pouches, of which all squirrels are destitute; their tails are roundish, narrow, seldom turned up, and only sub-distichous.

The species belonging to this genus are of small size, and are all longitudinally striped on the back and sides.

Their notes are very peculiar; they emit a chipping clucking sound differing very widely from the quacking chattering cry of the squirrels.

They do not mount trees unless driven to them from necessity, but dig burrows, and spend their nights and the season of winter under ground.

They are, however, more closely related to the squirrels than to the spermophiles. The third toe from the inner side is slightly the longest, as in the former; whilst in the latter, the second is longest, as in the marmots. The genus *TAMIAS* is therefore nearly allied to the squirrels, whilst the spermophiles approach the marmots.

Authentic species of the genus *SCIURUS* are already very numerous, and as we have now a number of species, to which constant additions are making by the explorers of our Western regions, which by their cheek-pouches, their markings, and habits, can be advantageously separated



Drawn on Stone by R. Trembly

Chipping Squirrel, Hackee.

Drawn from Nature by J.J. Audubon F.R.S., F.L.S.

Printed by Nagel & Weinberger NY

from that genus, no doubt naturalists will arrange them in the genus *TAMIAS*.

When this genus was first established by ILLIGER, but a single species was satisfactorily known, and naturalists were unwilling to separate it from the squirrels, to which it bears so strong an affinity; but we are now, however, acquainted with six species, and doubt not that a few more years of investigation will add considerably to this number. We have consequently adopted the genus *TAMIAS* of that author.

The word *Tamias* is derived from the Greek *ταμίας*, (*tamias*), a keeper of stores—in reference to its cheek-pouches.

One species of this genus exists in the Northern portions of the Eastern continent; four in North, and one in South, America. We also possess an undescribed species, the habitat of which is at present unknown to us.

TAMIAS LISTERI.—RAY.

CHIPPING SQUIRREL, HACKEE, &c.

PLATE VIII.—MALE, FEMALE, AND YOUNG (First Autumn).

T. dorso fusco-cinereo, striis quinque nigris, et duobus luteo-albis longitudinalibus ornato; fronte et natibus fusco-luteis; ventre albo.

CHARACTERS.

Brownish gray on the back; forehead and buttocks brownish orange; five longitudinal black stripes and two yellowish white ones on the back; under surface white.

SYNONYMES.

ECUREUIL SUISSE, Sagard Theodat, Canada, p. 746, A. D. 1636.

GROUND SQUIRREL, Lawson's Carolina, p. 124.

“ “ Catesby, Carol. vol. ii., p. 75.

EDWARDS, vol. iv., p. 181. Kalm, vol. i., p. 322.

SCIURUS LISTERI, Ray, Synops. Quad., p. 216, A. D. 1693.

LE SUISSE, Charlevoix, Nouv. Fr., vol. v., p. 196.

STRIPED DORMOUSE, Pennant, Arc. Zool., 4 vols., vol. i., p. 126.

SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS, Brisson, Reg. Anim., p. 155, A. D. 1756.

ECUREUIL SUISSE, (Desm. Enc. Mamm.,) Nota, p. 339, Esp., 547.



Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus *Tamias*." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 64–65. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322452>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/108513>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322452>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/322452>

Holding Institution

Duke University Libraries

Sponsored by

Duke University Libraries

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not provided. Contact Holding Institution to verify copyright status.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.