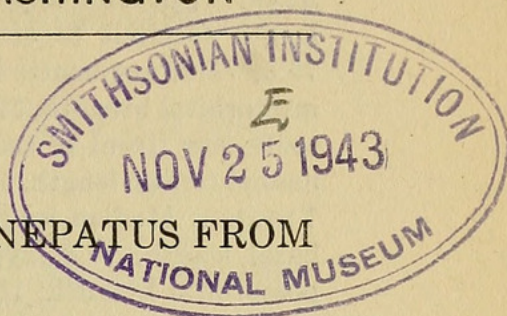


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SKUNK OF THE GENUS *CONEPATUS* FROM
MEXICO.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN



In identifying specimens of tropical skunks from Mexico the writer noticed a hitherto unrecognized geographic race inhabiting the peninsula of Yucatan. It is based mainly on specimens collected by E. W. Nelson and the writer more than 40 years ago.

Conepatus tropicalis yucatanicus, subsp. nov.

Type.—From La Vega, on mainland coast opposite Isla Cancun, northeastern Quintana Roo, Mexico. No. 108502, ♂ young adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Surveys collection); collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman, March 19, 1901. Original number, 14625.

Distribution.—Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and Guatemala; limits of range undetermined.

General characters.—A subspecies of medium size, with long tail and two white dorsal stripes extending far backward. Similar in general to *Conepatus tropicalis tropicalis*, of Vera Cruz, but tail much longer; color about the same, but white of tail more extensive, owing to greater length; cranial details different. Also similar to *Conepatus tropicalis trichurus* of Panama, but smaller; white dorsal stripes extending farther posteriorly.

Color.—*Type*.—Head white across crown from which two white stripes, separated by a narrower median black stripe, extend posteriorly along back, gradually narrowing to points near hips, a few hairs faintly indicating continuation to base of tail; face, sides of body, under parts, and limbs black; tail white to near base, the white narrowing to a point above, leaving sides and basal two inches below black. In a topotype the white dorsal stripes are more completely interrupted on rump.

Skull.—Similar in size to that of *tropicalis*, but frontal region broader between orbits and at postorbital constriction; anterior nares less oblique, less extended antero-posteriorly as viewed from above; mastoid bullae less inflated; dentition slightly heavier. Compared with that of *trichurus* the skull is somewhat smaller, with lighter dentition.

Measurements.—Type and a young adult male topotype, respectively: Total length, 565, 555 mm.; tail vertebrae, 194, 175; hind foot, 75, 76. *Skull:* Type and a young adult male topotype, respectively: Median length (occiput to end of premaxilla), 77.2, 75; condylobasal length, 75.5, 75.4; zygomatic breadth, 46.5, 48.3; mastoid breadth, 41.6, 41.2; interorbital breadth, 22.5, 23.3; postorbital breadth, 19.3 19.8; maxillary tooth row (front of canine to back of carnassial), 24.1, 23.3; upper carnassial (crown length, outer side), 8.1, 8.1. An adult female from Merida, Yucatan: Median length (occiput to end of premaxilla), 74.3; condylobasal length, 70.8; zygomatic breadth, 49; interorbital breadth, 22.1; postorbital breadth, 18.4; maxillary tooth row (front of canine to back of carnassial), 23.3; upper carnassial (crown length, outer side), 8.1.

Remarks.—*Conepatus tropicalis yucatanicus* appears to be a peninsular race, closely allied to *C. t. tropicalis* of Vera Cruz. It differs most obviously in the greater length of the tail. In length of tail it more nearly approaches *C. t. trichurus* of Panama, but the latter differs in larger size and heavier dentition as pointed out.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 4, as follows:
Guatemala: Without definite locality, 1 (skull only).
Quintana Roo: La Vega (type locality), 2.
Yucatan: Merida, 1 (skull only).



Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1943. "A new skunk of the genus *Conepatus* from Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 56, 89–90.

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