Tr. R.

A916Q

V. 2

Biology Dept. Library

QUADRUPEDS OF NORTH AMERICA.

GENUS LUTRA.—RAY., CUV., MUSTELA SPEC., LINN., AONYX, LESSON.

DENTAL FORMULA.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{6}{6}; \text{ Canine } \frac{1-1}{1-1}; \text{ Molar } \frac{5-5}{5-5} = 36$$

THE second inferior incisor on each side, a little receding in most of the species; the canine much dilated, hooked; first superior molar, small, blunt, and sometimes deciduous; the second, cutting; the third, of similar form, but larger; the fourth, with two external points, but furnished with a strong spur on the inner side; the fifth has externally three small points, with a broad spur internally. The inferior molars in this genus vary from five to six, the first being wanting in some of the species.

Head large and flattish, terminating in a blunt muzzle; ears short and round; tongue slightly papillous. Body long and slender; legs short; toes five on each foot. In some of the species the fifth toe on the hind foot is rudimental. Toes webbed, armed with short claws which are not retractile. Tail, not as long as the body, thick, and flattened horizontally.

Body covered externally with long, rigid and glossy hair, with a softer, shorter, downy fur intermixed.

On each side of the anus, there is a small gland secreting fetid matter.

All the species are good swimmers, live along the banks of rivers and ponds, and feed on fish.

The generic appellation is derived from Lutra—an Otter: from the Greek λουω (lous), wash.

There are eleven species enumerated by authors, inhabiting the follow-

VOL. II.—1

ing countries : Europe 1, Island of Trinidad 1, Guyana 1, Brazil 1, Kamtschatka 1, Java 1, Malay 1, Pondicherry 1, The Cape of Good Hope 1, and North America 2.

LUTRA CANADENSIS.—SABINE.

CANADA OTTER.

PLATE LI.—MALE.

L. vellere nitido, saturate fusco ; mento gulâque fusco albis ; L. vulgare major.

CHARACTERS.

Larger than the European Otter, L. Vulgaris. Dark glossy brown ; chin and throat dusky white ; five feet in length.

SYNONYMES.

LOUTRE DE CANADA, Buffon, vol. xiii., p. 326, t. 44.

COMMON OTTER, Pennant, Arctic Zoolog., vol. i., p. 653.

LAND OTTER, Warden's Hist. U. S., p. 206.

LUTRA CANADENSIS, Sabine, Franklin's Journ., p. 653.

" BRASILIENSIS, Harlan, Fauna, p. 72.

" " Godman, Nat. Hist., vol. i., p. 222.

" CANADENSIS, Dekay, Zool., p. 1., p. 39.

DESCRIPTION.

Head, large and nearly of a globular form ; nose, blunt and naked ; lips, thick ; ears, round, slightly ovate, and closer together than in *L. Vulgaris*, clothed densely with short hair on both surfaces ; body, long, cylindrical ; neck, long ; legs, short and stout ; moustaches, very rigid, like bristles ; soles of the feet, thinly clothed with hair between the toes, tubercles at the roots of the claws, naked ; feet, webbed to the nails ; Tail, stout, gradually tapering toward the extremity, depressed at the base, continuing flattened through half its length ; at the base there are two oval glands. The longer hairs covering the fur, are glossy and rigid ; fur, soft, dense, and nearly as fine as that of the Beaver, continuing through the whole extent of the body, even to the extremity of the tail, but shorter on the forehead and extremities.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus Lutra." *The quadrupeds of North America* 2, 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322432>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/108514>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322432>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/322432>

Holding Institution

Duke University Libraries (archive.org)

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>.