QUADRUPEDS OF NORTH AMERICA.

GENUS LYNX.

DENTAL FORMULA.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{6}{6}; \text{ Canine } \frac{1-1}{1-1}; \text{ Cheek-Teeth } \frac{3-3}{3-3} = 28.$$

The teeth in animals of this genus, with the exception of there being one less on each side, in the upper jaw, do not differ from the dental arrangement of the genus *FELIS*. The canine are very strong, there are but three molars on each side, above: The small false-molar, next to the canine, which exists in the larger species of *long-tailed* cats, such as the lion, tiger, panther, cougar, &c., as well as in the domestic or common cat, is wanting in the lynxes. There is one false-molar, or conical tooth on each side—one carnivorous, with three lobes and a tubercle or blunted heel, on the inner. The third cheek-tooth is rather small, and is placed transversely. In the lower jaw there are on each side, two false, compressed, simple molars, and one canine, which is bicusped.

The head is short, round, and arched; jaws short; tongue aculeated; ears short, erect, more or less tufted.

Fore-feet with five toes, hind-feet with only four; nails retractile. Tail shorter than the head, although nearly as long, in a few instances.

The species heretofore classed in the genus *FELIS* have been so multiplied by the discoveries of late years in various parts of the world, that they have for some time demanded a careful examination, and the separation of such as present characters essentially different from the types of that genus, into other genera.

Some of the distinctive marks by which the genus *LYNX* is separated

from the old genus *FELIS*, are the tufted ears and shorter bodies and tails of the lynxes, as well as the slight difference above mentioned in the dental arrangement of the two genera. In a note in the *American Monthly Magazine*, vol. i., p. 437, *RAFINESQUE*, in a few lines, proposed the genus *LYNX*, but gave no detailed characters, although he states that he had increased the species of this genus from four to fifteen! in which supposition, alas, he was sadly mistaken.

Dr. *DEKAY*, in the "Natural History of New-York," a work published "By Authority" of the State, has adopted the genus *LYNCUS*, as established by *GRAY*.

We have not seen the work in which Mr. *GRAY* proposed this generic name, and are consequently unable to ascertain on what characters it was founded, and we prefer the more classical name of *LYNX*. The name *Lynx* was formerly applied to one of the species of this genus. It is derived from the Greek word *λυξ* (*lux*), a *Lynx*. Eight species of *Lynx* have been described; one being found in Africa, two in Persia, one in Arabia, two in Europe, and two in North America.

LYNX RUFUS.—GULDENSTAED.

COMMON AMERICAN WILD CAT.—BAY LYNX.

PLATE I.—MALE.

L. Cauda capite paullo brevior, ad extremum supra nigra, apice subalbida; auribus pagina posteriore maculo sub albido nigro marginato distinctis; hyeme et auctumno rufo-fuscus; vere et æstate cinereo-fuscus.

CHARACTERS.

Tail nearly as long as the head, extremity on the upper surface black, tipped with more or less white; a whitish spot on the hinder part of the ear bordered with black; general colour reddish-brown in autumn and winter, ashy brown in spring and summer; soles naked.

SYNONYMES.

BAY LYNX, Pennant, Hist. Quadr., No. 171. Arctic Zool., vol. 1., p. 51.

FELIS RUFA, Guld. in Nov. Comm. Petross. xx., p. 499.

FELIS RUFA, Temm., Monog., &c., vol. 1., p. 141.

LYNX FASCIATUS, Rafin. in Amer. Month. Mag., 1817, p. 46.

LYNX MONTANUS, Idem, Ibid., pp. 46, 2.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus Lynx." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322433>.

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

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322433>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/322433>

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>.