GENUS MUSTELA.—Cuv.

DENTAL FORMULA.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{6}{6}; \text{ Canine } \frac{1-1}{1-1}; \text{ Molar } \frac{5-5}{6-6} = 38.$$

Head, small and oval; muzzle, rather large; ears, short and round; body, long, vermiform; tail, usually long and cylindrical; legs, short; five toes on each foot, armed with sharp, crooked, slightly retractile claws. No anal pouch, but a small gland which secretes a thickish offensive fluid. Fur, very fine.

This genus differs from the genus *PUTORIUS*, having four carnivorous teeth on each side, in the upper jaw, instead of three, the number the true weasels exhibit, and, the last carnivorous tooth on the lower jaw, has a rounded lobe on the inner side, which renders this genus somewhat less carnivorous in its habits than *PUTORIUS*; and consequently a slight diminution of the cruelty and ferocity displayed by animals of the latter genus, may be observed in those forming the present.

There are about twelve species of true Martens known, four of which inhabit North America.

The generic name *MUSTELA*, is derived from the Latin word *mustela*, a weasel.

MUSTELA CANADENSIS.—SCHREBER.

PENNANT'S MARTEN OR FISHER.

BLACK FOX OR BLACK CAT OF THE NORTHERN HUNTERS.

PLATE XLI.—MALE.

Capite et humeris cano fuscoque mixtis; naso, labiis, cruribus, et cauda, fusco-nigris.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus Mustela." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 307–307. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322438>.

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