GENUS NEOTOMA.—SAY et ORD.

DENTAL FORMULA.

$$\text{Incisive } \frac{2}{2}; \text{ Canine } \frac{0-0}{0-0}; \text{ Molar } \frac{3-3}{3-3} = 16.$$

MESSRS. SAY and ORD, who established this genus, having given an extended description of its teeth, &c., we shall present a portion of it in their own words.

“Molars, with profound radicles. *Superior jaw*.—Incisors even and slightly rounded on their anterior face: first molar with five triangles, one of which is anterior, two exterior, and two interior. Second molar with four triangles; one anterior, two on the exterior side, and a very small one on the interior side: third molar with four triangles; one anterior, two exterior, and a very minute one, interior.

“*Inferior jaw*.—Incisors even, pointed at top: first molar with four divisions or triangles, one anterior, a little irregular, then one exterior, one interior opposite, and one posterior: second molar, with four triangles anterior and posterior, nearly similar in form, an intermediate one opposite to the interior and exterior one: third molar with two triangles, and an additional small angle on the inner side of the anterior one. Tail hairy; fore-feet, four toed, with an armed rudiment of a fifth toe; hind-feet, five toed.

OBSERVATIONS.

The grinding surface of the molars differs somewhat from that of the molars of the genus *ARVICOLA*; but the large roots of the grinders constitute a character essentially different. The folds of enamel which make the sides of the crown, do not descend so low as to the edge of the alveolar processes; in consequence of this conformation, the worn down tooth of an old individual must exhibit insulated circles of enamel on the grinding surface.

Neotoma—Gr. *νεος*, (*neos*,) new; and *τεμνω*, (*temno*,) I cut or divide.

Two species of this genus have been described, both existing in North America.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Genus Neotoma — Say et Ord." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 31–31.

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