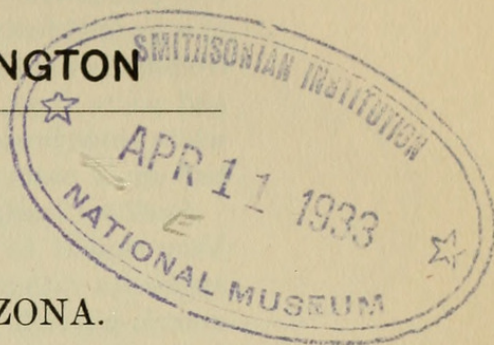


PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW CACOMISTLE FROM ARIZONA.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

Bassariscus astutus ranges as a species from Oregon to southern Mexico. Study of Arizona material and general comparisons indicate the desirability of recognizing a new geographic race in the area along the continental divide in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico, and probably extending southward into the Sierra Madre of Mexico.

The new subspecies is described as follows:

***Bassariscus astutus arizonensis*, subsp. nov.**

ARIZONA CACOMISTLE.

Type.—From Cosper Ranch, Blue River, about 12 miles south of Blue, Greenlee County, Arizona (altitude 5,000 feet). No. 205388, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by E. A. Goldman, September 1, 1914. Original number 22461.

Distribution.—Arizona south and east of the Colorado River, southwestern New Mexico, and probably northern Sonora and northwestern Chihuahua.

General characters.—Size small, color rather dark. Most closely allied to *Bassariscus astutus flavus* of Texas, but smaller, with blacker face and grayer, less yellowish, general coloration. Similar in size to *B. a. nevadensis* of southern Nevada, but upper parts darker; face, top of head, and base of ears distinctly blacker; feet more clouded with dusky (nearly clear light buff in *nevadensis*); skull differing in detail. Smaller than *B. a. octavus* or *B. a. raptor* of California, with narrower black rings on tail than the latter.

Color.—*Type*: Ground color of upper parts in general buffy grayish, the dorsum rather heavily lined or overlaid with black, the dark hairs thinning out along sides and over thighs; top of head, and posterior basal half of ears blackish; face, including sides of muzzle, eyelids, and cheeks extensively black, relieved by the contrasting pure white markings over and under eyes usual in the group; under parts, including inner sides of limbs, between light buff and light ochraceous buff; ears clothed with short grayish white hairs on distal half, becoming black on posterior base as already noted; outer sides of forearms mixed cinnamon buff and dusky;

fore feet grayish above, a narrow but distinct black line along outer side of sole; hind feet grayish clouded with dusky over metatarsus, soles blackish from heels to base of toes, the toes whitish; tail with eight alternating black and white rings, and a black tip, the black rings broader above and the white rings broader below. *Young* (about half grown): Similar to adults but upper parts more extensively black.

Skull.—Closely resembling that of *B. a. flavus*, but usually smaller. Very similar to that of *B. a. nevadensis*, but rostrum slightly broader; zygomata rather widely spreading; audital bullae broader anteriorly, the antero-internal border more extended and more completely filling space between meatus and postglenoid process; foramen ovale usually larger; dentition about the same. Similar to that of *B. a. raptor*, but smaller; audital bullae shorter, more rounded, and differing in detail in about the same respects as from *nevadensis*; foramen ovale usually larger, opening more directly downward.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 775 mm.; tail vertebrae, 390; hind foot, 70. Average of three adult female topotypes: 720 (700–742); 361 (330–381); 66 (63–69). *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 77.8; condylo-basal length, 75.8; zygomatic breadth, 47.4; breadth of rostrum (over root canine), 13.7; interorbital breadth, 14.5; canine-molariform toothrow (alveoli), 29.5; upper carnassial, crown length, 7, crown width, 4.8.

Remarks.—The ranges of *Bassariscus astutus arizonensis* and *B. a. flavus* are confluent in New Mexico. Slight but apparently fairly distinctive cranial details pointed out indicate, however, that the Grand Canyon and lower reaches of the Colorado River may be an effective barrier separating *arizonensis* from *B. a. nevadensis*. Some evidence on this point is presented by a specimen from the south side of the Colorado River at the mouth of Diamond Creek, on the Hualpai Indian Reservation. This specimen is not only darker than those from the north side but agrees with topotypes of *arizonensis* in the anterior broadening of the audital bullae, a character shared with *flavus* and distinguishing both *arizonensis* and *flavus* from *nevadensis* and the California forms of the group. *B. a. arizonensis* and *nevadensis* may be expected to intergrade along the upper course of the river, above the Marble Canyon where the stream might be crossed on the ice in winter. The species has been recorded from southwestern Colorado but no specimens from that region have been examined by me. General comparisons show that Hall (Univ. Calif. Pub. Zool., vol. 30, no. 3, p. 44, Sept. 8, 1926) and some previous authors were warranted in assigning *Bassariscus raptor* Baird to California. The type of *raptor* agrees closely in size, width of black tail rings and in cranial details with some California specimens, and in combination of characters exhibits a corresponding departure from examples of the species collected east of the Colorado River.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 10, as follows:

Arizona: Cosper Ranch, Blue River (type locality), 5; Colorado River (mouth of Diamond Creek), 1; Graham Mountains (skull only), 1; Santa Rita Mountains, 1; Tinajas Altas (skull only), 1.

New Mexico: Redrock, 1.



Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1932. "A new cacomistle from Arizona."
Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 45, 87–88.

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