

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FOX FROM SANTA MARTA,
COLOMBIA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Among a small lot of mammals just received from Wilmot W. Brown, Jr., who is making collections in the Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia, for the Bangs collection, are two examples of an interesting new fox, which may be known as—

***Urocyon aquilus* * sp. nov.**

Type from Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia, altitude between 2000 and 3000 feet, ♂ old adult, No. 8001, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected Feb. 10, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Orig. No. 58.

Specific characters.—Similar in general external appearance to *U. cinereo-argenteus*; colors dark, black the predominating color of upper parts, dull ochraceous buff of under parts; size small; tail short; skull large and massive, differing much from that of the North American gray foxes (true *Urocyon*).

Color and pelage.—Upper parts: Pelage short, hispid, the hairs banded, mostly with four distinct rings—wood-brown at base, then black, then wood-brown and black tipped, the black tips deeper along back from behind ears to base of tail, shorter and less conspicuous on sides and top of head, the black predominating on dorsal region and mixed black and dull brownish on sides; under fur mouse-gray at base, yellowish at tips; sides of neck behind ears tawny, under parts dull ochraceous buff with a decided vinaceous tint on lower belly, at base of tail and between arms; chin grizzled black; toes and fingers dull brownish black; ears brownish black, dull tawny around edges, nearly naked inside; tail very short, narrow, not bushy, black above and at tip, dull clay color below.

**Aquilus* = dark-colored.

Cranial characters.—The skull of *U. aquilus* is large (very large for the size of the animal) and massive; the region enclosed between the temporal ridges is narrow and the ridges themselves less strongly marked than in *U. cinereoargenteus*; no depression between postorbital process and frontal, the frontals being evenly rounded; postorbital processes small; zygomatic arch heavy and very low and straight, the malar very low down, leaving little space between it and molar teeth; palate broad; audital bullæ short, deep, and round (very differently shaped from those of *U. cinereoargenteus*); mandible like that of *U. cinereoargenteus*, with the peculiar narrow, straight, tapering rami, except that the notch at posterior end of lower side of ramus is not so strongly marked.

The dentition, though heavy throughout, is normal.

Measurements.

No.	Sex.	Total length.	Tail vert.	Hind foot.	Ear from notch.
8001, type.....	♂ old ad.	900	300	120	60
8002, topotype.....	♀ yg. ad.	860	290	125	65

Skull (type, ♂ old adult): Basal length, 122; zygomatic breadth, 74.6; mastoid breadth, 48; breadth across postorbital processes, 42; breadth of palate at middle of last molar, 22.8; length of palate, 63.6; greatest length of single half of mandible, 104.

Remarks.—Among South American *Canidæ* there appears to be a wide variety of type forms that probably completely bridge over the differences between *Urocyon* and the fox-like wolves of the subgenus *Thous*. Such species as *Canis azaræ*, *C. fulvipes*, and *C. urostictus* appear to be connecting links, showing a strange mixture of characters.

I can find no notice of any species like the subject of the present description. While *U. aquilus* undoubtedly belongs in the genus *Urocyon*, it differs cranially very much from *U. cinereoargenteus*, the type of the genus. Its external characters are wholly those of *Urocyon*.



Bangs, Outram. 1898. "Description of a new fox from Santa Marta, Colombia." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 12, 93–94.

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