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THE WISCONSIN PUMA

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There are many records for the puma or cougar (*Felis concolor*) in Wisconsin, some of which have been assembled by W. E. Scott (Wisconsin Conserv. Bull. 4 (10): 25, 1939) and A. W. Schorger (Trans. Wisconsin Acad. Sciences, Arts and Letters 34: 31-32, 1942). Schorger also published an account of a mounted specimen in the collection of Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis. (Jour. Mammal. 19 (2): 252, May 14, 1938) which he later acquired for deposit in the University of Wisconsin Zoological Collection. The specimen was dismounted and made into a study skin with detached skull in 1948, at which time it was my privilege to examine it critically. A re-evaluation of measurements and other characteristics shows that this specimen represents an undescribed subspecies that inhabited the upper Mississippi Valley and western Great Lakes region. For permission to designate the specimen in the University of Wisconsin Zoological Collection as the type-specimen I thank Dr. John T. Emlen, Professor of Zoology at Wisconsin. The form is named for Dr. A. W. Schorger, Professor of Wildlife Management at the University, in recognition of his talent in salvaging specimens and historical records of extinct and vanishing species, collating the material, and making it available in publications.

Felis concolor schorgeri, subsp. nov.
Wisconsin Puma

Type-specimen.—No. 13,464, University of Wisconsin Zoological Collection; ♂ (sexed by describer) adult, skin (removed from mount and tanned) and skull; collected November 22, 1857, by Samuel P. Hart.

Type-locality.—Near Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

Geographic range.—Now extirpated. Formerly from west-central Kansas (Ellis County) east and northeast to eastern Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota; probably also throughout most of Missouri and Illinois.

Diagnostic characters.—A large and apparently rather dark and reddish puma, larger than *Felis concolor coryi* and possibly nearly as large as *F. c. hippolestes*, and apparently darker. Original color of type-specimen indeterminate, the specimen having been mounted and exposed

to light while on exhibition for about 90 years. Skull large, the cranium posteriorly relatively rather narrow in comparison with other subspecies; the spread of the zygomatic arches somewhat reduced posteriorly. Compared with the skull of *F. c. hippolestes* that of *F. c. schorgeri* is rather narrow, particularly posteriorly; much flatter and more dished in frontal region; zygomatic arch, particularly the malar part, broader; nasal breadth relatively and actually conspicuously greater; carnassial teeth, both upper and lower, larger. Compared with *Felis concolor coryi* the skull of *schorgeri* is somewhat larger and clearly approaches that of *coryi* only in the nasal breadth, which is even relatively greater in *schorgeri* than in *coryi*.

Measurements.—Type-specimen (adult male): No external measurements of the animal in the flesh are available. Prof. Walter E. Rogers, of Lawrence College, informed A. W. Schorger that the mounted specimen measured "27 inches in height at the shoulders and 85 inches in length from end of nose to tip of tail" (Schorger, Jour. Mammal. 19: 252, 1938). *Skull*: Type-specimen (adult male): Zygomatic width, 151.5 mm.; height of cranium, 73.8; interorbital breadth, 43.3; post-orbital processes (width), 75.6; width of nasals (at anterior tips of frontals), 22.6; width of palate (across interpterygoid fossa), 28.7; maxillary tooth row alveolar length, 65.0; upper carnassial crown length, 24.2; upper carnassial crown width, 13.2; lower carnassial crown length, 19.2; lower carnassial crown width, 15.2.

Specimens examined.—Kansas: Catherine, Ellis County, 1 (skull only, Kansas Univ. Mus.); Minnesota: Duluth, 1 (skull only, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); Wisconsin: Appleton (near), 1 (type-specimen).



Jackson, Hartley H. T. 1955. "The Wisconsin puma." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 68, 149–150.

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