

## A SPECIMEN OF TYPICAL BURCHELL'S ZEBRA IN THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

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By MARCUS WARD LYON, Jr.,

*Assistant Curator, Division of Mammals, U. S. National Museum.*

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The United States National Museum is fortunate in possessing a good example of what is apparently a typical Burchell's zebra, *Equus burchellii* (Gray). According to a recent authority<sup>a</sup> this species is now extinct or nearly so, and it is desirable to publish photographic reproductions and descriptions of all specimens as a matter of permanent record. The specimen here described and illustrated<sup>b</sup> agrees very closely with the figures published by Mr. Pocock<sup>c</sup> and with the figure published by Mr. Ewart.<sup>d</sup> It is in many respects, however, different from Gray's original figure of *Asinus burchellii*,<sup>e</sup> mainly in the absence of shadow stripes anterior to the shoulder and the more complicated marking in the region of the rump and thigh. The specimen, Cat. No. 15120, U.S.N.M., was received in the flesh from the shows of Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson from Bridgeport, Connecticut, on July 15, 1885. Unfortunately no other information regarding the specimen is obtainable. It was mounted for exhibition by Dr. W. T. Hornaday shortly after it was received at the Museum, and has since been on exhibition. The skull, Cat. No. 21982, U.S.N.M., and leg bones are, unfortunately, mounted in with the skin, and it does not seem advisable to remove the skull at present for purposes of study.

The scapulæ were the only other portions of the skeleton saved. In the catalogue the sex is marked "♂," but an examination of the specimen shows it to be a female, two teats being distinctly seen in the inguinal region. The specimen is in good condition aside from a

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<sup>a</sup> Pocock, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1903, p. 196.

<sup>b</sup> A figure of the head and neck of this specimen was published in the Report of the U. S. National Museum, 1892, pl. LXXXI.

<sup>c</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1903, p. 197.

<sup>d</sup> The Pencyuik Experiments, 1899, p. 86.

<sup>e</sup> Zool. Journal, I, 1824-1825, pl. ix.



long oblique crack in the skin on the right side. The hair is slightly worn in spots about the shoulders and along the sides, where the animal had probably rubbed itself in its cage, as well as one or two minor spots about the head.

*Markings.*—The shape, direction, relative size, and number of the stripes and shadow stripes are well seen in the figures and need no detailed description. The most anterior shadow stripe subtends the first dorsal stripe posterior to the shoulder stripe on each side. No real stripes appear on the legs proper, but at the left heel are two small remnants of stripes, and about the right heel are three faint remnants. On the left side but one vertical dorsal stripe reaches the ventral longitudinal stripe, while on the right side two stripes are fully connected with the ventral line and a third is partially connected with it. The neck stripes are very broad, and on the right side some of them fuse in places.

*Color.*—The muzzle is dirty white, suffused with cream buff<sup>a</sup> just above margin of upper lip; elsewhere it presents a grizzled appearance, due to the dark bases of the hairs and the dark color of the skin showing through the short scant hairs. Chin similar to muzzle, but without any cream-buff area. The dark patches above the nostrils are intermediate in color between vandyke brown and burnt umber. The dark stripes on the face are dark seal brown tinged with vandyke brown; those on the cheeks a dark shade of vandyke brown and burnt umber. The light areas of the head are dirty white. The dark stripes of the neck and body are a dark combination of vandyke brown and burnt umber, growing lighter as the stripes reach the region of the elbow, belly, and hips. The upper half of the light neck stripes are a very light mixture of isabella and fawn colors, fading out to dirty white on the lower half of the stripes. The dark colors of the mane are concolor with the dark neck stripes, but the white areas are white or dirty white, contrasting with the isabella-fawn color of the upper portion of the neck stripes. The light stripes on the body, shoulders, hips, and thighs are a light mixture of fawn and isabella color; those on the body fading out to dirty white on the belly. The shadow stripes are light mummy brown, gradually blending into the ground color of the light stripes in which they are situated. The belly is dirty white, with the longitudinal stripe dark seal brown tinged with vandyke brown.

The legs are dirty white, irregularly suffused with dirty cream buff. The remnant of marks about the heel are similar in color to the shadow stripes, but much lighter.

The ears are dirty white; the dark spot toward the tip is concolor with the dark neck stripes.

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<sup>a</sup>The names of the colors are taken from Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists.



The tail is mainly dirty white, with the mid-dorsal stripe extending along its upper surface and gradually dying out near the end; tuft of hairs at the end dirty white, intermingled with a few brownish-black hairs.

*Measurements.*—Taken from mounted specimen. Total length, muzzle to end of tail vertebræ, tape applied to dorsal line, 2,740 mm.; length of head, muzzle to occiput, 510 mm.; occiput to shoulder stripe, 650 mm.; shoulder stripe to root of tail, 1,180 mm.; tail vertebræ, 440 mm.; tail to end of hairs, 725 mm.; height at shoulder, 1,115 mm.; tip of hoof to heel, 505 mm.; tip of hoof to elbow, 700 mm.; collosity, right foreleg, 75 by 30 mm.; collosity, left foreleg, 78 by 34 mm.; length of ear from meatus, 136 mm.; length of ear from crown, 152 mm.; length of hairs of mane at middle of neck, 103 mm.; antero-posterior diameter of forehoof where it is attached to skin, 84 mm.; greatest transverse diameter of same hoof at same point, 79 mm.; tip of hoof to base of hairs in front, 54 mm.; antero-posterior diameter of hind hoof where it is attached to the skin, 79 mm.; greatest transverse diameter of same hoof at same point, 64 mm.; tip of hoof to base of hairs in front, 60 mm.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

- PLATE I. Left side of Burchell's Zebra, *Equus burchellii* (Gray), Cat. No. 15120 U.S.N.M.  
II. Right side of Burchell's Zebra, *Equus burchellii* (Gray), Cat. No. 15120 U.S.N.M.  
III. Rear view of Burchell's Zebra, *Equus burchellii* (Gray), Cat. No. 15120 U.S.N.M.



Lyon, Marcus Ward. 1907. "A specimen of typical Burchell's zebra in the United States National Museum." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 32, 1–3.

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