

for the name itself is based on the rat-like tail, a full figure of the animal is given, and the erroneous description of the teeth only forms quite a subsidiary paragraph, to which typical importance could not be given. Moreover, were we to accept the wrongly allocated skull as the type, the species could never be satisfactorily determined, while the identification of the animal is now practically certain.

Mr. Goldman's own paper can not be accepted as giving him the authority of a "first reviser," for to have such authority a knowledge of all the pertinent facts is necessary, and Mr. Goldman was naturally unaware of the confusion about the skulls which has been indicated above.

As a result the now familiar name *Proechimys* will remain for the Spiny Rats, while *Cercomys* will be the proper generic name of the three species hitherto referred to *Thrichomys*—these being, therefore, *Cercomys cunicularius* F. Cuv. (1829) (*syn. Thrichomys aperoides* Lund, 1840), *C. fosteri* Thos. (1903) and *C. laurentius* Thos. (1904).

I may note in conclusion that the condition of the tail shown in the original figure of *Cercomys*, widely different as it is from that occurring in adult specimens of "*Thrichomys*," is not unlike what is found in immature specimens of that animal.

—Oldfield Thomas.

A CORRECTION OF TWO RECENT NAMES FOR MAMMALS.

In a report upon the mammals collected in Lower California during the "Albatross" Expedition of 1911 (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. XXXI, p. 122) Mr. C. H. Townsend describes two new subspecies of pocket mice as *Perognathus penicillatus goldmani* and *Perognathus spinatus nelsoni*. Unfortunately for the standing of these subspecific names both are already in current use as *Perognathus goldmani* (Osgood, N. Am. Fauna No. 18, p. 54, 1900) and *Perognathus nelsoni* Merriam (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1894, p. 266). I would therefore propose to substitute the names *Perognathus penicillatus seri* for the first and *Perognathus spinatus occultus* for the second of these new subspecies.

—E. W. Nelson.

THE TECHNICAL NAME OF THE TASMANIAN DEVIL.

In 1903* I gave to the Tasmanian Devil the specific name of *satanicus* in substitution for that of *ursinus*, which, though in use since 1808, was technically inadmissible because of its earlier use for the Tasmanian Wombat.

Now, however, I find to my regret that another change is necessary owing to an overlooked name, given in a semi-popular work, having been in existence since 1842, and therefore long antedating *satanicus*.

This is:

Ursinus harrisi, Boitard, Jardin des Plantes, p. 290, 1842.

The generic name *Ursinus* is a synonym of *Sarcophilus* (1837), but the specific name would be valid, and the name of the Tasmanian Devil should therefore be *Sarcophilus harrisi* Boitard.

—Oldfield Thomas.

* Ann. Mag. N. H. (7), XI, p. 289, 1903.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1912. "The technical name of the Tasmanian Devil."
Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 25, 116–116.

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