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## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ECUADOREAN MAMMALS. NO. 5

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Since the recent publication of my last report on Ecuadorean mammals,<sup>1</sup> I have found it necessary to describe a new species of the interesting genus *Cænolestes*. The material upon which this new species is based has been available for several months and has been suspected to belong to an undescribed form. This suspicion proves to be well founded and it seems advisable to publish the description at this time.

### *Cænolestes convelatus*, new species

TYPE.—No. 64462, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Las Maquinas, Western Andes, 7000 feet altitude, on trail from Aloag to Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Ecuador; September 24, 1923; collector, H. E. Anthony. The type is a skin and skull in good condition.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—Most like *caniventer* in external appearance but skull lacking facial vacuities and dentition heavier.

DESCRIPTION.—Color above, everywhere near blackish brown (2; Ridgway), the tips of the longer hairs with appearance of clove-brown in some lights, pelage plumbeous-black at base; top of head somewhat lighter in color than back; color of underparts lighter than back but with plumbeous-black bases to the hairs; a wash of pale olive-gray from throat to base of tail; ears color of back, practically naked; hands and feet clove-brown above, rather thinly haired; tail about as long as length of head and body, very thinly haired, annulations well marked, color above like back, color below lighter but with no well-defined line of contrast between upper and lower sides.

Skull strongly built, with no trace of the facial vacuity which is always present in *caniventer* and *fuliginosus*; the contact between the nasals, maxillaries and frontals is the normal closed suture, not the open, loosely touching condition seen in the facial or preorbital region of the hitherto known species of *Cænolestes*<sup>2</sup>; zygomatic arch fairly robust and convex in lateral profile; other details of skull structure about as in *caniventer*; molars averaging heavier than in *caniventer*; upper median incisors simple, first lateral incisor with faint notch in posterior cutting edge of crown, a

<sup>1</sup>The previous reports are as follows: 'Preliminary Report on Ecuadorean Mammals. No. 1,' American Museum Novitates, No. 20, November 3, 1921, 'Preliminary Report on Ecuadorean Mammals. No. 2,' American Museum Novitates, No. 32, March 4, 1922, 'Preliminary Report on Ecuadorean Mammals. No. 3,' American Museum Novitates, No. 55, January 31, 1923, and 'Preliminary Report on Ecuadorean Mammals. No. 4,' American Museum Novitates, No. 114, May 29, 1924.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Oldfield Thomas, 1920, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., LVIII, p. 247, states that *obscurus* lacks the preorbital vacuities, but specimens of this species kindly loaned to me by Dr. Osgood, part of a series identified by Thomas as *obscurus*, certainly show these vacuities although not to such a marked degree as does *fuliginosus*.

similar notch very faintly indicated on second lateral incisor; mandible presenting no unusual features, anterior mental foramen rather more posterior in position than in *caniventer*.

MEASUREMENTS.—Taken in the flesh: total length, 256 mm.; length of head and body, 132; tail vertebrae, 124; hind foot (c.u.), 29. Skull, greatest length, 36.3; condylo-incisive length, 35.9; length of nasals, 18; zygomatic breadth, 16.6; least interorbital breadth, 6.9; mastoid breadth, 12.7; length of entire upper toothrow, 19.9; length of upper molar series, pm<sup>3</sup> to m<sup>4</sup>, 8; length of first three upper molars, m<sup>1</sup>–m<sup>3</sup>, 6; greatest breadth of palate, across outside margin of molars, 8.8 mm.

The most immediate relationships of *convelatus* are with *caniventer*. The two species are very much alike superficially and are easily distinguished from *fuliginosus* in the field on the basis of larger size, more robust appearance and lighter colored underparts. The type series of *convelatus* contains ten skins and skulls, as well as alcoholic material, and there is available for comparison a series of more than 150 specimens of *fuliginosus* from various localities in Ecuador, some of these localities very near to the type locality of *convelatus*. This new species was taken in heavy subtropical forest at an elevation lower than that at which we took *fuliginosus*, a region quite comparable to that in which *caniventer* was caught.

It is apparent that there exists two very distinct and easily distinguished groups within the genus *Cænolestes*, one group which contains the older and better known forms *fuliginosus* and *obscurus*, and another group of two species, *caniventer* and *convelatus*. The ranges of these two groups appear to be in different life zones and in different ecological areas. The differences in structure between the species of these two groups are not great, when measured by degrees of differentiation existing within groups of the more modern forms. However, the gap is not bridged by intergrades and the antiquity of the genus *Cænolestes* inclines one to interpret such differences as rather more fundamental than similar differences within a genus such as *Marmosa*. It is quite likely that more extended research will demonstrate that these two groups should be subgenerically distinct. Until such a time, it will be convenient to make the following divisions in the genus:

*Fuliginosus* Group

*fuliginosus*  
*obscurus*  
*tatei*

Size small, more delicately built.  
Color warm brown above and but little lighter below.

*Caniventer* Group

*caniventer*  
*convelatus*

Size larger, more robust in build.  
Color less warm above, much lighter below.

Pelage soft and silky.

Cutting edges of second and third upper incisors entire or but very faintly notched.

Hands (especially) and feet slender and delicate.

Posterior palmar pad well developed.

Facial or preorbital vacuities present.

Pelage harsher.

Cutting edges of second and third upper incisors distinctly notched.

Hands and feet broad and heavy.

Posterior palmar pad very large.

Facial vacuities may or may not be present.

