Fam. III. PROCYONIDÆ.

1. PROCYON.


The Raccoons are the only animals of this typically Neotropic family which range well into the Northern continent. They present the most terrestrial development of the family type, having stout compact bodies, a short pointed snout, close-set eyes, broad rounded ears, a somewhat short tail, non-compressed canines, and broad tuberculate molars. The two species whose ranges meet in our subregion are the only ones at present well established, though it seems not improbable that further knowledge will lead to the specific recognition of other South-American forms. At present, however, we have only to deal with:—

1. *P. cancrivorus.* General colour brown; body and limbs slender, feet sparingly haired or naked above, tail slender, fur close; outer incisors broad. Length of head and body about 24", of tail 13".

2. *P. lotor.* Brownish-grey; body and limbs stouter, feet fully haired above, tail shorter and more bushy, fur woolly; incisors small and uniform. Head and body about 24", tail 11½.

1. Procyon cancrivorus.

*Ursus cancrivorus,* Cuvier, Tabl. Élém. d’Hist. Nat. p. 113 (1798, descr. orig.) ¹.  


The Crab-eating Raccoon is found as far north as Panama, whence living specimens have more than once been received by the Zoological Society, and Veragua, whence it has been obtained by M. Boucard. It is a native of Colombia and Guiana; but its range further south is doubtful; for Mr. Sclater has shown good reason to believe that the Raccoon of Southern Brazil and Paraguay belongs to another form, which may probably prove to constitute a distinct species. This latter race is distinguished by its naked reddish feet and by the yellow colour of the lower part of its body; for in the northern animal the feet are dark and more fully haired above, and the belly is but slightly paler than the back. Further information will be required before the relationship of these two forms can be definitely settled. Should they prove distinct, Cuvier’s name, being founded on Cayenne specimens, must be retained for the northern race ².