Regions; but these have gradually disappeared, leaving their representatives at the two most distant extremities of their once extensive range. As far as the New World is concerned, the Tapirs are thus now an exclusively Neotropical type.

**Fam. I. TAPIRIDÆ.**

**I. TAPIRUS.**


The few existing species of Tapirs present well-marked cranial features in addition to their external differences. Of late years it has been proposed to regard these characters as of generic value, the late Dr. Gray having separated the Malayan Tapir under Wagner’s name of _Rhinoceros_*, and Dr. Theodore Gill the Central-American species as _Elasmog. nathus†_. The skulls of the latter certainly present very striking characters: in some respects they resemble that of _Tapirus indicus_ rather than those of _T. americanus_ and _T. roulini_; but in others they differ from all the other known species. Of these the most remarkable is the complete ossification of the mesethmoid, which forms a bony nasal septum, extending in the adult skull far in front of the short nasal bones, and clasped below by ascending plates developed from the maxillaries. Dr. Gill no unnaturally anticipated that these cranial characters would be found to be correlated with external peculiarities in the head and proboscis, and with consequent modification of habits; but not only has this proved not to be the case, but the two forms of _Elasmog. nathus_ differ from each other in much more important cranial characters than they do from any of the other Tapirs. Under these circumstances it seems to me to be unwise to attempt to break up such a small and well-defined genus as _Tapirus_.

Five years after his first description of _Elasmog. nathus bairdi_, Dr. Gill announced the discovery of a second species of the genus, based on the examination of a series of five skulls sent to the Smithsonian Institution from Guatemala by Captain J. M. Dow. He proposed to name the form _E. dowi_, and gave the following preliminary notice of its remarkable cranial peculiarities:—

“The most obvious differences are in the development of the nasal and frontal bones; but these are confirmed by the differences in the dentition, especially in the form of the first premolar of each jaw. The nasal bones of the young, compared with those of the corresponding age of _E. bairdi_, are wider, especially in front of the ‘pits,’ and exhibit basilar processes recurrent forward along the frontal [maxillary?] bones, like those of _Tapirus_, but less developed, and the grooves for the nasal cartilages are deeper. As the animal advances in age, however, the frontals would appear to grow forward and force apart the nasals, which apparently do not increase, or even diminish.


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