CARIACUS.

The naturalists of the United-States Boundary Survey found the Prong-horn to be abundant in the north of Mexico, being especially plentiful in the northern part of Sonora, where Dr. Kennerly observed that it was less shy than in other localities. Mr. Clark states that in this region “the Antelope is said to have an abiding hatred for the rattle-snake, which it decoys first into a striking attitude, and then utterly annihilates by leaping into the air and coming down upon the snake with its four sharp-cutting hoofs placed together.” 3. According to the Berlandier manuscripts, this is the *Teuththlmaçaume* of Hernandez and the *Berendo* of modern Mexicans, and extends its range southwards at least throughout the State of Tamaulipas 2.

For the most recent account of the habits and mode of living of this very interesting animal, the reader may be referred to Judge Caton’s excellent monograph 4.

**Fam. IV. CERVIDÆ.**

1. CARIACUS.

*Masama* (subgen.), Hamilton-Smith, Griffith’s *An. Kingd.* v. p. 314 (1827, nec Rafinesque*).


Sir Victor Brooke, in his recent review of the Cervidae †, has shown that the existing Deer may be naturally divided into two groups, according to the characters of the rudimentary lateral metacarpal bones, and that this division is in singular accordance with the geographical distribution of the family. The first section, *Plesiometacarpi* (or subfamily Cervinae, as I would prefer to call it) is almost exclusively Old-World, and is characterized by having only the *proximal* ends of the metacarpals remaining. The *Telemetacarpi* (or Cariacinae), on the other hand, retain only the *distal* extremities of these bones, and are mostly either New-World or circumpolar forms.

Four species of the typical American genus *Cariacus*, representing the subgenera *Cariacus* proper and *Coassus*, are natives of our subregion. Of these the first, *C. macrotis*, is a Nearctic form which just crosses our northern boundary; the second, *C. virginianus*, extends its range from Canada to Panama, if not far into South America; the third, *C. toltecus*, appears to be peculiar to Southern Mexico; while the fourth, *C. rufinus*, is a strictly Neotropical type. The following characters may serve to distinguish these species:—

*Masama* of Rafinesque was an imaginary genus, allied to the Giraffe, and possessing simple solid and permanent horns! He founded it mainly on the “Temamazame” of Hernandez, *Cariacus rufinus*, with which he associated the animals now known as *Antilocapra americana* and *Aplocerus montanus* (Amer. Monthly Mag. ii. p. 44, 1817, fide Baird). It is evident that such a genus cannot be retained either as a whole or as restricted to any of its members, no one of which agrees with its definitions. Cf. Baird, *Mamm. N. Am.* p. 665; de Saussure, *Rev. et Mag. Zool.* 1800, p. 261, footnote.


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