

E. H. Colbert 1935

THE PROPER USE OF THE GENERIC NAME *NESTORITHERIUM*

The genus *Nestoritherium* was founded by Kaup in 1859, in his "Beiträge zur näheren Kenntniß der urweltlichen Säugethiere," Heft 4, p. iv. It was based on *Chalicotherium sivalense* (Falconer and Cautley).

In Hugh Falconer's "Palaeontological Memoirs," vol. 1, p. 223, there is a statement regarding *Nestoritherium* that has led to a considerable amount of confusion among students of the Chalicotherioidea. Falconer's remarks are quoted below.

"*Chalicotherium*. Munich, June 15, 1861.—Most interesting of all the Pikermi collection are a set of specimens of a very large species of the same genus as our Sewalik *Chalicotherium*. This is the *Nestoritherium*, Kaup (Beiträge, viertes Heft. 1859), which is figured and described by Wagner (1857) under the name of *Rhinoceros pachygynathus*."

This statement by Falconer led Holland and Peterson (Mem. Carnegie Mus., vol. 3, no. 2, p. 207, 1914) to suppose that *Nestoritherium* was founded on one of several specimens, described by Wagner as *Rhinoceros pachygynathus*. Since the specimen figured by Wagner happens to be identical with *Ancylotherium pentelici* (Gaudry and Lartet), Holland and Peterson concluded that the type of *Nestoritherium* must be the species from Pikermi. They write: "From the foregoing it is seen that the generic name *Nestoritherium* has priority over *Ancylotherium*, the type species being *pachygynathum* Wagner, a homonym, which must be dropped according to the laws of nomenclature, and replaced by *pentelicum* Gaudry et Lartet, which is identical, and also has priority."

Holland and Peterson created a new genus, *Circotherium*, for the reception of the Siwalik species, *Chalicotherium sivalense*.

Dr. Matthew (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 56, pp. 516-517, 1929) concluded that *Nestoritherium* was founded either on the species *Rhinoceros pachygynathus* Wagner (in which case it would be a rhinoceros and not a chalicothere), or on one certain specimen figured by Wagner as *Rhinoceros pachygynathus*. In the latter case, according to Matthew *Nestoritherium* would be based on a "species *innominata*" of Kaup.

Matthew, like Holland and Peterson, made the mistake of supposing that *Rhinoceros pachygynathus* is the type of *Nestoritherium*, in spite of the fact that Palmer in his Index Generum Mammalium, 1904, had correctly designated *Chalicotherium sivalense* as the type.

I recently wrote to Dr. A. Tindall Hopwood of the British Museum for help on this problem, because he had access not only to Kaup's "Beiträge," but also to the collections and notes of Dr. Falconer. I take the liberty of quoting from his letter.

"I have waded through Kaup's somewhat confusing account of *Nestoritherium* without finding a single mention of Wagner, or of Wagner's rhinoceros, but a very definite reference to *Chalicotherium sivalensis* Falc. & Caut. There is no doubt that this species is the genotype of *Nestoritherium*. Kaup confirms this in his introduction to Heft IV, for on p. iv he speaks of the 'Indian genus *Nestoritherium*.'

From the above it is clear that *Nestoritherium* Kaup, 1859, is based on *Chalicotherium sivalense* (Falconer and Cautley) and that the name *Circotherium* Holland and Peterson, 1914, is a synonym. The Pikermi species is properly referable to the genus *Ancylotherium* Gaudry, 1863.

The name *Nestoritherium* is incorrectly used by the following authors:

Falconer, Hugh. 1868. Palaeontological Memoirs and Notes, vol. 1, pp. lvi + 590; vol. 2, pp. xiii + 675.  
Holland, W. J., and O. A. Peterson, 1914. Osteology of the Chalicotheroidea. Mem. Carnegie Mus., vol. 3, no. 2, 189-406, pls. 48-77.  
Zittel, K. A. von. 1925. Textbook of Palaeontology. (Revised edition.) Macmillan.  
Matthew, W. D. 1929. Critical observations from Siwalik mammals. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 56, art. 7, pp. 437-560. February 9, 1929.

Colbert, E. H. 1934. Chalicotheres from Mongolia and China in the American Museum. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 67, art. 8, pp. 353-387, fig. 15. November 7, 1934.

—EDWIN H. COLBERT. *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

#### BLACKFISH IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

A school of blackfish (*Globicephala melaena*) was stranded in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between Metis and Matane, on September 6, 1934. I counted 23 dead at Metis and 3 at Tartague and Riviere Blanche. Gordon Astle said 40 were taken about Boule Rock sand bank and 5 or more about Tartague. The animals ranged from 6 to 20 feet in length. A male measuring 14 feet in length was estimated to weigh 1,500 pounds.

About 2,000 pounds of the meat from the Boule Rock catch was placed in cold storage at Matane. It was used for fox food by the Prince Edward Island fox farmers, and was found to be excellent for the purpose.—S. J. MATHEWSON, *Montreal, Quebec.*

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### SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

The seventeenth annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from April 30 to May 4, 1935. There were 71 members present, representing 13 states and two Canadian provinces.

#### PROGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

8:00 p.m.

Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Hotel Schenley

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

9:00 a.m.

Address of welcome. Andrey Avinoff, Director, Carnegie Museum.

1. The type localities of some Mexican mammals. W. H. Burt.

Discussed by V. Bailey.

2. Remarks on the nomenclature of *Perognathus*. Seth B. Benson.

Discussed by V. Bailey.

3. Recent activities of the American committee for international wild life protection. Harold J. Coolidge, Jr.

Discussed by M. W. Lyon, Jr., H. H. T. Jackson, W. B. Scott, R. Kellogg, J. M. Phillips, A. Avinoff, and H. E. Anthony.

4. Wildlife work under E. C. W. in the National Parks and Monuments. Victor H. Cahalane, Adolph Murie, Adrey E. Borell, and E. Lowell Sumner, Jr. (Read by Victor H. Cahalane.)

Discussed by L. R. Dice, G. M. Wright, M. W. Lyon, Jr., W. S. Schmitt, W. H. Wright, C. C. Adams, V. Bailey, H. H. T. Jackson, F. Harper, and Elisabeth Hone.

2:00 p.m.

5. Porcupines killed and eaten by a coyote. L. Floyd Keller. (Read by G. M. Wright.) Discussed by V. Bailey and W. Bebb.

6. Demonstration of a live trap for small mammals. Seth B. Benson.

Discussed by C. C. Sanborn and W. J. Hamilton, Jr.

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