

DENTAL ANOMALIES OF THE RACCOON

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Anomalies in raccoon dentition are not commonly recorded in the literature. To obviate the conclusion that such anomalies are rare, the following cases are reported. Normal dentition for *Procyon lotor*, the raccoon, as given by Goldman (1950) and by Hall and Kelson (1959), is

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 3 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ i \frac{---}{3}, c \frac{---}{1}, p \frac{---}{4}, m \frac{---}{2} \end{array}$$

No mention

is made in either of these standard works of variations from this pattern.

The two skulls illustrated in Plate I, Figures 1-3, present an upper dental formula of 3-1-3-2, reflecting the absence of the first premolar on each

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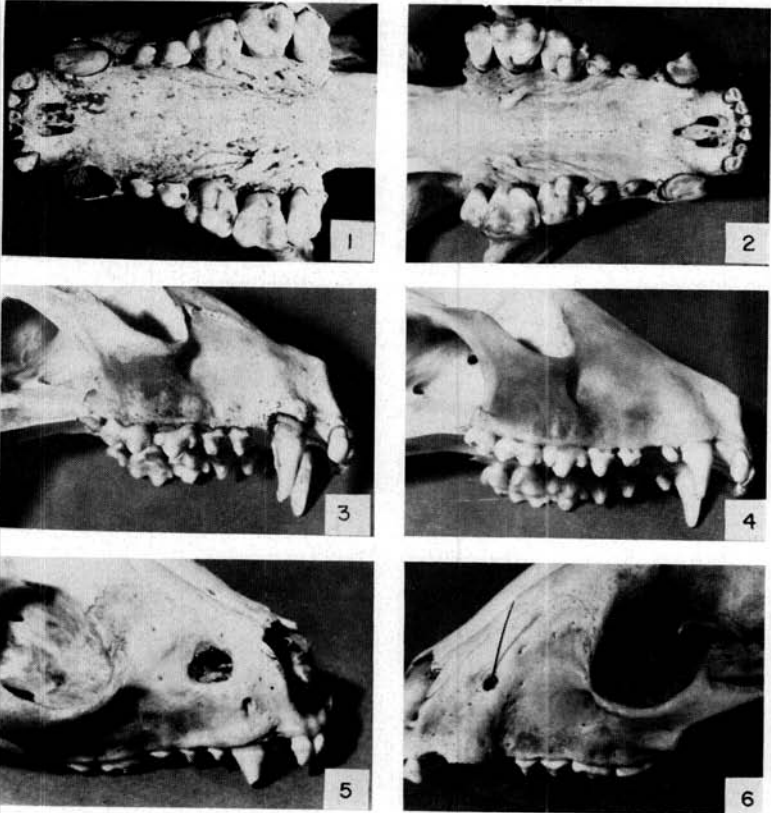


PLATE I.—Dental anomalies in the raccoon. See text for explanation of figures.

side, though the lower jaw dentitions of these were normal. The skull shown in Figure 1, RLM No. 17, was found 5½ feet down in the gray clay of a stream bed "several miles west" of Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas. The skull shown in Figures 2 and 3, GCS No. 2663, is from a male specimen taken in Allerton Park, near Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois.

The skull in Figure 4, GCS No. 1773, has an unusual diastema between the first and second upper premolars, the spacing causing unusually severe wear on the second upper right premolar. This was a female specimen collected several miles east of Lodge, Piatt County, Illinois.

In Figure 5, a large opening in the right maxilla exposing the base of the right canine tooth is shown. This skull, GCS No. 1788, is from a female specimen taken in Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge, Mason County, Illinois. On the left side of this skull, though not illustrated here, the third premolar is absent with a small rounded piece of tooth protruding from a tiny socket in the anterior portion of the space which would normally be filled by the third premolar, no other remnants of an alveolus being visible. This condition undoubtedly resulted from in-

jury, an explanation not applicable for the former cases of missing teeth and alveoli.

The skull illustrated in Figure 6, RLM No. 51, was found with other skeletal remains about 40 feet inside the entrance of one of the mines in the Blackball Mine system, 1¾ miles west of Utica, La Salle County, Illinois. The opening leading from the alveolus of the left canine to the external surface of the maxilla is indicated by a horse hair. Although the bone surrounding this opening and that shown in Figure 5 does not have the spongy appearance characteristic of diseased bone tissue, the openings could have resulted from alveolar abscesses when the animals were younger, as the edges of the openings are rounded inwardly by extension of the compact bone into the openings.

The GCS skulls are from the collection of Glen C. Sanderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey, to whom the author is indebted for their loan.

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