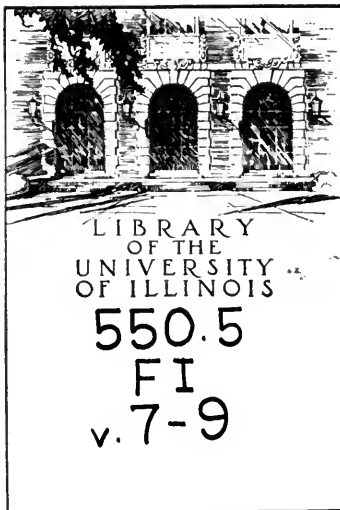




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AN OSTEOBORUS FROM HONDURAS

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Certain mammals have been described previously from the Pliocene deposits of Gracias, Honduras (Olson and McGrew, 1941). A Field Museum expedition to that region in 1941-42 discovered additional members of the Gracias fauna, among which is the dog described below. The particular interest of the specimen is that it extends the reported range of a well-known North American genus and species deep into the Central American isthmus. It also suggests that the Gracias fauna might be Hemphillian in age rather than Clarendonian as previously supposed.

To the various government officials of the Republic of Honduras and the Department of Gracias, who gave us priceless assistance and co-operation, I am extremely grateful.

**Osteoborus cynoides** (Martin)

*Hyaenognathus cynoides* Martin, Journ. Mamm., 9, pp. 235-236, pl. 21, 1928.

*Osteoborus cynoides* (Martin) Stirton and Vanderhoof, Univ. Calif. Publ., Bull. Dept. Geol. Sci., 23, pp. 175-182, figs. 1-3, 1933.

*Referred specimen.*—F.M. No. P26972, right maxillary with  $P^3$ — $M^2$ , left maxillary with  $P^4$ — $M^2$ .

*Osteoborus* was first recognized as a distinct genus by Stirton and Vanderhoof (1933). Within the genus they included certain species that had previously been referred to *Hyaenognathus*, *Borophagus*, *Aelurodon*, and *Porthocyon*. The vertical range of the genus is from Barstovian (Crocker Springs) through the Hemphillian (Hemphill). Among the species of the genus a rather definite progressive trend

may be observed. The earlier species are distinguished from *Aelurodon* with difficulty while the species from the Hemphillian have greatly reduced  $P_{1-3}^1$  and a very high  $P_4$ .

In the Honduras specimen  $P_3^1$  is reduced to the same extent as in *Osteoborus cynoides* of the Hemphillian. It has only one cusp

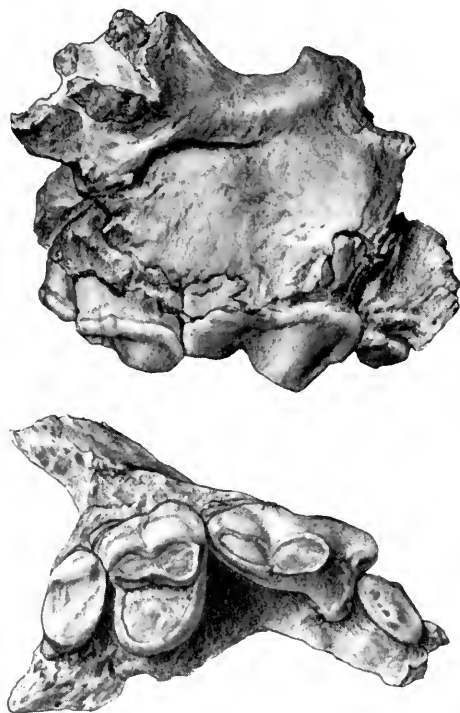


FIG. 25. *Osteoborus cynoides*. Lateral and ventral views of right maxillary with  $P_3^1$ – $M_2^1$ . F.M. No. P26972.  $\times 1$ .

proper, which is low and median in position.  $P_4^1$  is like that of all advanced species of the genus. The parastyle appears to be somewhat more reduced than in other specimens but considering the extreme variation in this character it probably is not significant.

The apparent identity of the Honduras specimen with *Osteoborus cynoides* suggests a Hemphillian age for the Gracias fauna. This is at variance with the conclusions drawn from a study of the Gracias horses (Olson and McGrew, 1941). Clarendonian horses, particularly those described by Johnson (1937) are extremely close to the Honduras species, but until more adequate studies are made of the

diminutive horses of both the Clarendonian and Hemphillian faunas the real significance of this similarity cannot be established. On the other hand, we can not be sure of the structural range of *Osteoborus* in the Clarendonian. It seems unlikely, however, that this provincial age would have species as advanced as *O. cynoides*. It is probably best to reserve positive judgment on the age of the Gracias fauna until further facts are available.

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