

ART. XXII.—*Additional Notes on Oreodontoides oregonensis* Thorpe; by MALCOLM RUTHERFORD THORPE.

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In this Journal, August number, 1921, the author described the skull of an unusual merycoidodont, which was given the name of *Oreodontoides oregonensis*. The main distinguishing characteristics of the skull of this genus and species are the great size of the brain chamber, the lack of any sagittal crest, the unusual diameter of the

FIG. 1.

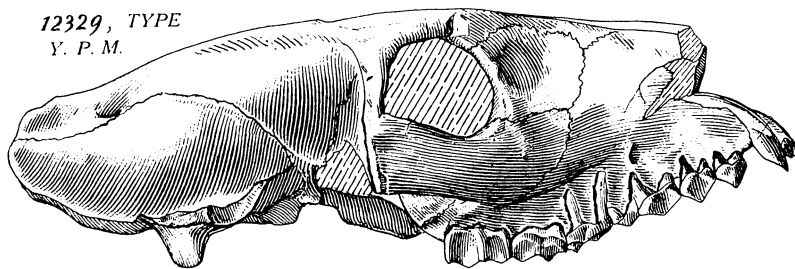


FIG. 1.—*Oreodontoides oregonensis*. Holotype. Right lateral view of skull. x 2/3.

postorbital constriction, and a marked tendency toward brachycephaly. The side view of the holotype is shown in fig. 1. This genus and species, so far as now known, is confined entirely to the John Day formation of Oregon.

Since the above publication, more material of this species has been freed from the matrix, and, during a recent visit by Professor F. B. Loomis, it was found that certain somewhat fragmentary lower jaws almost exactly fitted the type skull. Two of these the author has selected as cotypes, Cat. Nos. 12635 and 12638 Y. P. M., the former having been collected at Turtle Cove, John Day Valley, Oregon, in strata of Upper John Day (Upper Oligocene), that is, the same locality and horizon as the holotype skull, Cat. No. 12329 Y. P. M. This specimen, Cat. No. 12635, consists of the parts of both rami anterior

to the middle of M_1 , united at the symphysis. It bears the incisors, canines, and premolars. The other cotype, Cat. No. 12638, was likewise found at Turtle Cove, in Upper Oligocene strata. The matrix has a tinge slightly greenish in color in small spots, and I cannot be positive that it is Upper John Day. All of the other specimens

FIGS. 2, 3.

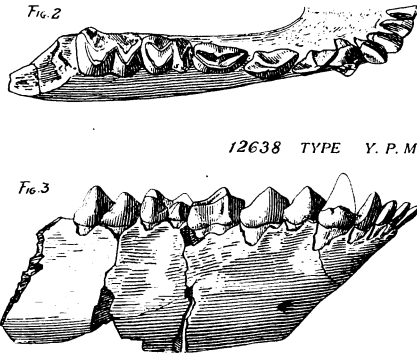


FIG. 2.—*Oreodontoides oregonensis*. Paratype. Top view of right half of lower jaw. $\times 2/3$.

FIG. 3.—*Oreodontoides oregonensis*. Paratype. Side view of right half of lower jaw. $\times 2/3$. The incisors and canine shown in figs. 2 and 3 are restored from Cat. No. 12635 Y. P. M.

of this form were enclosed in undoubted gray matrix, with one possible exception. This exception is a specimen consisting of the median part of an immature skull, with part of the milk dentition, Cat. No. 10149, which seems referable to this genus and species. However, the matrix is unquestionably green, indicating a middle John Day horizon, and the locality from whence it came was Clarnow Bottom, in the John Day Valley, but some distance away from Turtle Cove, the type locality.

Specimen No. 12638 consists of the anterior part of both rami united at the symphysis, together with the teeth, the crowns of some of which have been broken during fossilization.

The incisors are three in number, as usual, in the merycoidodont group. They are directed well forward and increase slightly in width from the internal one outward. They are quite thin, a characteristic of all of

these lower teeth, as opposed to the rather thick, stocky ones of *Merycoidodon*. The canine has been supplanted in function by the caniniform premolar (P_1), as in other genera of this group. This canine is triangular in cross-section, with the external face smooth and flat. The lingual surface is divided into two surfaces by a median ridge. It is approximately twice as large as its contiguous incisor. The caniniform premolar is laniariform and was apparently an excellent cutting tooth. In cross-section it is elliptical, with an antero-posterior diameter twice that of the transverse, 8 x 4 mm. The premolars are unusually narrow, and P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 are somewhat crowded, so that they are set obliquely. The tooth pattern is similar to that of *Merycoidodon*, except that the excavations on the lingual side of the teeth are more open. For example, when these teeth become worn in *Merycoidodon*, the internal pits appear as depressions, surrounded by the dental substance, but in *Oreodontoides* they remain open, except in the posterior half of P_4 . The molars are unfortunately so damaged that little can be made out of them, except the approximate length of the series and the fact that they appear to conform to the merycoidodont standard, except for the less width, shown in all of these teeth. There is a relatively large mental foramen on each side beneath P_2 .

Measurements. No. 12638.

	mm.
Length of inferior premolar series, incl. P_1	33
Length of inferior molar series*	32
Length of symphysis	30
Depth of ramus below P_4	18

* Approximate.