

EXOTIC ZOOLOGY

The Bimonthly Magazine of Cryptozoology

Vol. 2., #5 September/October 1995 Matthew A. Bille, Editor

RECENT DISCOVERIES:

BRAZIL'S BARREL OF MONKEYS

An earlier issue (Vol. 1, #4), reported on new monkeys discovered in Brazil. The finds covered in that article included:

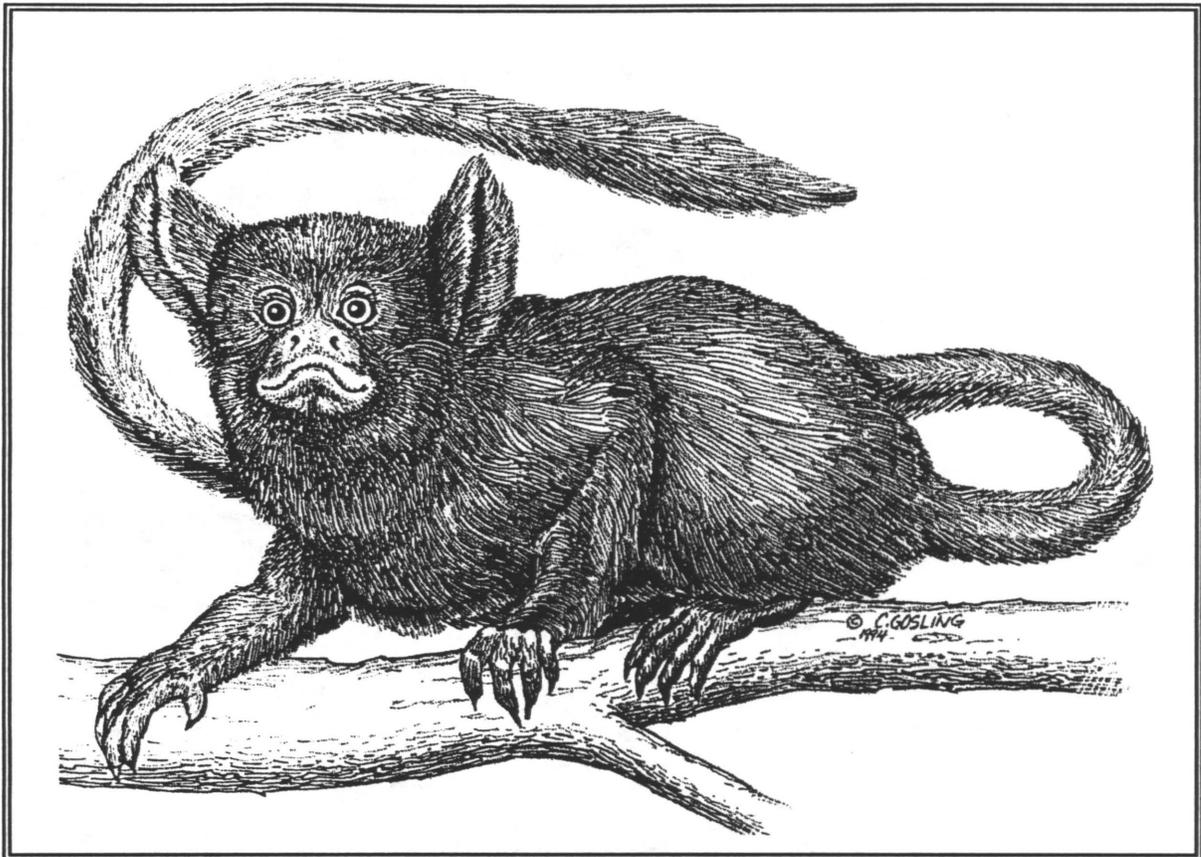
Saimiri vanzolinii, a dark-furred new squirrel monkey, from the conjunction of the Amazon and Japura Rivers in the upper Amazon basin.

Leontopithecus caissara, the black-faced lion tamarin, from the Atlantic coastal island of Superagui.

Callithrix mauesi, the Rio Maues marmoset, described in 1992 from near the Maues River in the remote central area of the country.

Of the three, the marmoset got the most press coverage. Humans inevitably find the tiny primate, with its dark-striped fur, simply adorable. The new form of lion tamarin, though, was the most surprising of these discoveries. It came from an island that was well populated and largely developed. It was, Conservation International president Russell Mittermeier said, "almost like finding a new species in the Los Angeles suburbs." At the same time, Mittermeier predicted that more new species were still to be found. He was right, and zoologists have recently described two additional monkeys.

A wildlife survey near the town of Humaita on the river Madeira netted a specimen in 1992 which was named *Callithrix nigriceps*, the black-headed marmoset. This monkey apparently has a very restricted range, as small as 10,000 square kilometers, in an area in which development is well under way. Like all marmosets, it is a small animal, weighing under a pound. It is part of the subgenus known as the bare-eared marmosets, distinguished by the absence of the hair tufts which many marmosets sport in and around their ears.



The Rio Maues marmoset, Callithrix mauesi. Drawing by Craig Gosling from photographs loaned by Conservation International.

A larger primate discovered the same year is *Cebus kaapori*, the fifth known species in the capuchin genus. The Ka'apor capuchin was found in the state of Maranhao. Not surprisingly, it was already known to the local Urubu-Ka'apor and other native tribes. At least one specimen was being kept as a pet at the time Helder Queiroz "discovered" the primate on behalf of science. Its range has apparently been reduced by habitat destruction. This monkey still has a larger area to roam than *Callithrix nigriceps*, but it, too, is under heavy pressure from developers, squatters, and hunters.

Finally, taxonomic revisions in the last decade have produced the claim that two other species, *Callithrix intermedia* and *Callicebus hoffmannsi*, were collected some time ago but not recognized as distinct types. It is clear we have a lot to learn about our cousins, the monkeys: it's a good bet that we do not, even yet, know all their names.

Sources: Conservation International. 1992. "500 Years Later, Scientists Continue to 'Discover' America: New Primate Species Found in Brazil," press release, October 13 // Ferrari, Stephen, and Helder Queiroz. 1994. "Two new Brazilian primates discovered, endangered," *Oryx*, January, p.31. Thanks to Dr. Karl Shuker for this article.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... THE KING BEE

In 1859, famous naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace was studying the fauna of the Molucca Islands when he discovered a new and remarkable species of bee. It was black with white markings and equipped with enormous mandibles, or outer jaws. Its most striking characteristic, though, was its sheer size. It was easily the largest bee in the world, reaching a total length of over an inch and a half (38mm). Not surprisingly, it became known as the king bee, even though the two specimens Wallace collected were both females.

This insect, the biggest, most conspicuous bee on Earth, then vanished from science's field of view. No one else could find it, and Wallace's two specimens remained the only known examples of the species *Chalicodoma pluto*.

The bee remained on the missing-insect list for over 120 years. Dr. Adam Messer, then a University of Georgia graduate student, went in search of the bee in 1981 and succeeded in rediscovering it.

Furthermore, Messer established that the bee survived on at least three islands in the chain, including the one where Wallace first encountered it.

Size is not the only unusual trait of this species. To begin with, the king bee has eschewed the usual bee occupation of making honey. While there is some cooperation, the bee is not social. Nor does it make its own nests. Instead, it resides in trees, inside the nests of termites who have conveniently bored out the wood. (The bee lines its nest with a resin the termites can't chew through.) Thus, the king is at best a freeloading tenant in its own castle.

Even more humbling for the "king," it is the female of the species that's enormous. The male is about half her size. In other words, it seems that the bee was not only misplaced, but misnamed as well.

Sources: Bright, Michael. 1987. *The Living World*. New York: St. Martin's Press // Shuker, Karl P.N. 1989. *Extraordinary Animals Worldwide*. London: Robert Hale.

MYSTERY ANIMALS: CADBOROSAURUS WILLSI

One of the most problematical cryptozoological animals has always been the alleged "sea serpent" or "sea monster." Large, serpentine animals have been reported in the oceans for centuries, sometimes by reliable witnesses, but never with any accompanying proof - no bodies, no photographs.

CADBOROSAURUS (Continued):

Accordingly, skeptics have consigned the sea-serpent to the status of a legend, albeit a timeless and endlessly fascinating one.

*Beyond the shadow of the ship
I watch'd the water-snakes:
They moved in tracks of shining white
And when they rear'd, the elfish light
Fell off in hoary flakes.*

- Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

Two Canadian scientists, Drs. Edward Bousfield and Paul LeBlond, now claim the sea serpent can be moved from a matter of myth to one of zoology. They believe they have adequate proof, and have gone so far as to publish a scientific paper naming the species involved. Their paper appeared earlier this year in *Amphipacifica, The Journal of Systematic Biology*. They followed this up with a book, *Cadborosaurus: Survivor From the Deep*. The oft-reported sea monster of the Pacific Northwest, usually known as "Cadborosaurus" or "Caddy," is, the authors say, a reptile which they've named *Cadborosaurus willsi*.

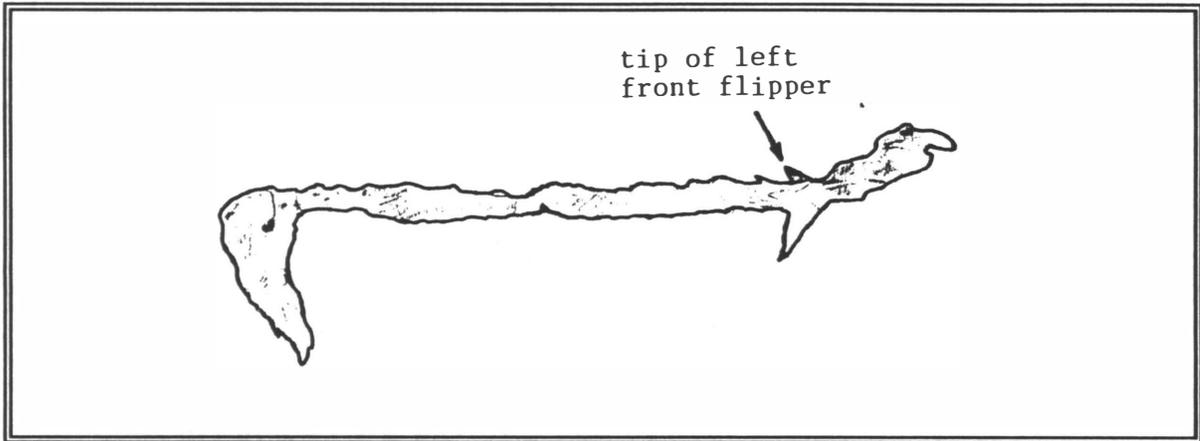
Bousfield and LeBlond present numerous eyewitness accounts, but the centerpiece of their argument, and the type-specimen of their new animal, is a strange-looking carcass that was found in a sperm whale's stomach in 1937. This object was removed intact at the Naden Harbor whaling station in British Columbia and photographed. What happened to the body is unclear, and no physical remains can now be located.

All that is left are three black-and-white photos of what resembles a crumpled snake. Front flippers are clearly visible, and the mangled-looking remains of what appear to be hind flippers or tail flukes hang down at the rear. The body is very thin, about 3.5 meters long but only 15 cm thick for most of its length. The neck (or whatever one calls the portion between the front flippers and the head on a creature like this) is also elongated, although not to the extent described in eyewitness accounts, and it appears somewhat mangled. There is a low ridge down the back. The head is camel-like, and, with its drooping snout, a bit comical in appearance.

The whalers and newspapermen who gathered to view this thing apparently thought it very strange. Their accounts emphasize it was not decomposed, and they went to the trouble to photograph it with a white sheet held up behind the body for contrast. Samples were sent to a museum, where they were not kept or even recorded, but were identified as part of a fetal baleen whale. Bousfield and LeBlond consider this highly unlikely, noting that 1) the photographed object does not at all resemble a whale fetus, and 2) no one has a theory of how such a thing could end up inside a sperm whale, an animal never known to prey on baleen whales in any way.

CADBOROSAURUS (Continued):

The authors believe the animal is a large fish-eating reptile. Adult specimens may range up to 15 meters long, making Caddy the longest (although not the bulkiest) of all living reptiles. Caddy displays a striking degree of vertical flexure, often resulting in what witnesses describe as loops of its body. It has large eyes and four flippers. The two hind flippers are essentially fused with the aft end of the spinal column to form a tail, although this fusion is not as complete as in whales. The animal can swim at very high speeds, reportedly up to 40 knots (65kph) and often raises its head well clear of the water.



The shape in the 1937 photograph. The authors believe the neck had been crushed. Some damage is apparent from the abnormal position of what appears to be the left front flipper.

A point sure to be debated in the authors' conclusion that the animal is a reptile. Their logic is that the waters off British Columbia are too cold for an elongated mammal with a high surface area-to-mass ratio and no apparent blubber layer. They suggest a reptile with a generally slow metabolism could have evolved in this environment. The creature's frequently reported "mane" would not be true hair but skin filaments resembling those found on such animals as the hairy frog. Bousfield and LeBlond also rely on two reports, both from the testimony of single witnesses and one very vague, of close-up encounters with what they think were baby Caddys. These were very small (.5 meters) compared to the adult, and both were described as reptilian.

Is Caddy for real? Almost everyone would like to think so. The idea of a large serpentine reptile prowling the oceans appeals not only to cryptozoologists but to the romantic in us all.

COMMENT: I agree with the authors that the 1937 photograph apparently represents an unknown species of sea animal. However, I think Bousfield and LeBlond have overreached the available data in assigning the creature to the reptiles. It's difficult to interpret eyewitness reports, and the "baby" stories are unverified.

CADBOROSAURUS (Continued):

While I lack the scientific credentials of Bousfield and LeBlond, I still have problems with the reptile idea. A large, sluggish animal in this region would be easy prey for orcas. There are no known cold-water reptiles: the leatherback turtle can visit these latitudes, but it has a totally different body type. Dr. Roger Payne, in his book *Among Whales* (see review below), notes that a whale's blubber is much thicker than needed purely for insulation. A mammal with a thin blubber layer and a high metabolism might be suited for Caddy's environment.

As to the larger question of Caddy's existence, I can't resist quoting Richard Ellis' summation of the case... "If I were a betting man, I would bet against it (I would, however, like nothing better than to lose the bet)." Still, Bousfield and LeBlond have given the subject sufficient credibility to make it a proper subject for investigation. And I'd certainly like to know what was in that photograph....

Sources: Ellis, Richard. 1994. *Monsters of the Sea*. New York: Knopf // LeBlond, Paul H., and Edward Bousfield. 1995. *Cadborosaurus: Survivor From the Deep*. Victoria, B.C.: Horsdal and Schubart // Bousfield and LeBlond. 1995. "An Account of *Cadborosaurus willsi*, new genus, new species, a large aquatic reptile from the Pacific coast of North America," *Amphipacifica*. Vol. I, Supplement I, April 20 // Payne, Roger. 1995. *Among Whales*. New York: Scribner's.

Thanks to Angel Morant Fores for sending in the *Amphipacifica* paper and to Richard Ellis for a copy of *Cadborosaurus*.

NEWS AND COMMENT

An article in *Discover* reports the vindication of a **once-discounted dolphin species**, *Delphinus capensis*. The "long-beaked dolphin" was described in the last century from the Cape of Good Hope but written off in the 1960s by mammalogists who thought it cospecific with the common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis*. Two scientists who recently carried out studies on skeletal remains of dolphins found that, not only did specimens attributed to *D. capensis* have longer beaks, but they had different body proportions and averaged a larger number of teeth and vertebrae than did examples of *D. delphis*. DNA analysis confirmed the distinction. **Source:** Svitil, Kathy. 1995. "Whale Warehouse," *Discover*, August, p.42.

This newsletter has previously mentioned the Eastern Puma Research Network, a group devoted to gathering data to prove the survival of that animal. There is a second, unrelated, organization, **Friends of the Eastern Panther**, also working to validate the existence of *Felis concolor cougar*. This nonprofit organization is headed by Ted Reed. Friends produces a newsletter, *Panther Prints*, and can be reached at P.O. Box 102, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833, U.S.A.

NEWS AND COMMENT (Continued):

Thanks to reader **Doug LeBarron**, of Minnesota, for puma reports in that state. **Pumas are occasionally found in Minnesota**, but it's not certain what subspecies they belong to, as most are from east of the Mississippi River. A puma tranquilized near Worthington in 1993 was the first official capture in a century. LeBarron reports seeing a black puma as a youth. As there are no specimens of black pumas from North America, LeBarron wonders if a pet black leopard could have escaped and mated with a puma, inserting the black color gene into the population.

Comment: As a final note which may be relevant, references I have consulted do not list a black color phase for the red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), but I nearly ran over a solid black one within the city limits of Colorado Springs earlier this year.

NEWS CLIPS: A new nightjar has been described from Ethiopia from a road-killed specimen (*New Scientist*, August 12, 1995)...A wasp from California has been identified as a type thought extinct for 25 million years (*San Francisco Chronicle*, September 4, 1995)...A large tortoise of a new genus, *Elusor*, has been described from Australia (*National Geographic*, August 1995)...the pygmy mouse lemur, *Microcebus myoxinus*, was rediscovered on Madagascar (*New Scientist*, July 15, 1995). **More on all these in the next issue.**

RESOURCES

BOOKS.

Payne, Roger. 1995. ***Among Whales***. New York: Scribner's. The only item of direct cryptozoological interest is a discussion of how many species of right whale there are, but Dr. Payne provides a superb introduction to cetaceans. For researchers like myself who are not degreed experts, I recommend this along with Richard Connor and Dawn Peterson's ***The Lives of Whales and Dolphins*** (1994. New York: Henry Holt). For a review of the known species, read Stephen Leatherwood's ***The Sierra Club Handbook of Whales and Dolphins*** (1983: San Francisco. Sierra Club Books). Other books worth reading include Richard Ellis' ***The Book of Whales and Dolphins*** and Jean-Pierre Sylvestre's ***Dolphins and Porpoises: A Worldwide Guide***.

PERIODICALS.

Royte, Elizabeth. 1995. "Hawaii's Vanishing Species," *National Geographic*, September, p.2. Well-illustrated look at Hawaii's rare endemics, some of which are recently discovered or presumed extinct. **Thanks to George Kantner for the article.**

Cornelius, Paul F. S. 1995. "The sea is a very big place," *Nature*, June 29, p.746. Positive review of Richard Ellis' *Monsters of the Sea*. The review's title is a quote from Sir Frederick Russell, and was Russell's proffered explanation when asked why a very large jellyfish he described in 1959 had not been classified earlier.

ON-LINE: Ben Roesch has created a **Cryptozoology Web site** at Telnet://134.117.1.25. Login: GUEST, then type GO CRYPT-ZOO. Tricia Lamb Feuerstein has posted a **cetacean bibliography** at http://www.physics.helsinki.fi/whale/literature/fic_main.html.

EDITOR'S PAGE

PURPOSE: Cryptozoology is the zoological subspecialty of finding new or supposedly extinct species. The term has been misapplied by some to sensationalized "monsters" and even "ghost" animals. I hope that **Exotic Zoology** can help restore the word's proper usage: the name of a science devoted to collecting evidence.

IN CLOSING:

Interested readers should join the International Society of Cryptozoology, which labors to make searching for new animals a respectable scientific specialty. Contact Richard Greenwell, Secretary, ISC, P.O. Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733. The ISC puts out a quarterly newsletter and a journal, *Cryptozoology*. While this editor is an ISC member, **EZ** is not an ISC publication.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: I hate to say this, but my book on new, rediscovered, and unconfirmed animals, *Rumors of Existence*, has been slipped again by the publisher. They blame a last-minute change in production schedules and say it will be out at the end of October. The book, to be published in hardcover by Hancock House, lists at \$24.95. The ISBN is 0-88839-335-0. If your bookstore or library fails to obtain it, you can order direct from the publisher by calling 1(800)938-1114.

Logo illustration: the mysterious cetacean Delphinus rhinoceros, described by French naturalists Quoy and Gaimard in 1819 and not reported since. Reconstruction by Craig Gosling copyright 1994.