

STUDIES IN TASMANIAN MAMMALS, LIVING AND
EXTINCT.

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By

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NOTOTHERIUM VICTORIÆ, OWEN.

Among the specimens recovered by Mr. K. M. Harrison from the swamp lands of King Island, we have to record specimens relating to *Nototherium victoriæ*, which include the following items.

1. The right and left rami of the mandible of a young animal, minus the premolars in either case, but having upon the right side, in addition to molars 4, 3, and 2, the tusk relating to that half of the jaw. Upon the left side, there are present molars 4, 3, 2, 1. All the teeth manifest the character of immaturity, incidentally demonstrated by the small amount of wear, and the actual bone tissue is much lighter in texture than that seen in matured specimens from the same locality. The absence of premolar teeth is most unfortunate, and curiously enough all the Nototherian jaws yet received from King Island are in a similar condition. Our present note is rather to record than describe the find, since they are chiefly valuable in a comparative connection.

2. The associated right and left upper maxillaries, from a skull of an older animal than that which supplied the mandible, the bony tissue being fully ossified and the teeth worn down to smooth surfaces. The right moiety gives us molars 4, 3, 2, 1, all *in situ*, and much in the same condition as they were when the animal was alive. Upon the left side molar 4 is present, but is detached, and molar 3 is mutilated at the point of contact with molar 4. Molars 2 and 1 are intact and still *in situ*.

NOTOTHERIAN TUSKS.

The tusk recorded above agrees exactly with specimens previously received from King Island, through the kindness of Mr. F. H. Stephenson, and its place in the skull can be stated with certainty since the complete set of four tusks were found with the bones recovered by Mr. Stephenson.

We are thus quite sure as to the kind of tusk that should be associated with skulls of *Nototherium victoriae*, also the tusks of the male of *Nototherium mitchelli* are available for study, and, as already stated in our note upon the supposed female animal of that species, we have an upper tusk that in a general way conforms to the characters of the male of that species, but is upon the whole rather flatter. Mr. Harrison's material also supplies us with a tusk that might very well represent the lower tooth of the female of *N. mitchelli*, whose remains we have just passed in review, since its ground point exactly fits the tusk relegated to that animal—also the second worn surface agrees very closely with the kind of wear associated with the second incisor of the upper jaw. If this relegation is a correct one, and we provisionally so place it, then the lower tusks of females of *N. mitchelli* depart somewhat from those of the males, and hold a middle place between the male tusks and those of *Nototherium victoriae*. This is not a point to be pushed to an extreme limit, but is a side note that awaits future confirmation or otherwise. We have spent a lot of time over the classification of this tusk, and have been always driven back to the conclusion named, and therefore leave the matter at this stage with the hope of obtaining in the future further material for study.