

A NOTE ON "PALORCHESTES," AS A TASMANIAN PLEISTOCENE GENUS.

By H. H. SCOTT, Curator of Launceston Museum.

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Plate IX.

Through the kindness of my friend, Mr. K. M. Harrison, of Smithton, I received on September 18th, 1915, a small packet of pleistocene fossils from the Mowbray Swamp. These included some Nototherian teeth, previously obtained, and a kangaroo's upper jaw, recently discovered by Mr. T. Edwards. As this latter adds a new genus to Tasmanian Palæontology, I herewith record the fact of its occurrence. (See Plate IX.)

The specimen is generically typical of Prof. Owen's genus "Palorchestes," a gigantic kangaroo, computed to have had a skull over sixteen inches long, or exactly double the size of the existing "Forester."

Viewed palate-wise, as photographed, it is easy to compare it with the similar portion of Prof. Owen's engraving—Fig. I., plate LXXXII. of the Philosophical Transactions, Part IX., 1873—with which it agrees in size and structure.* The specimen includes premolar No. 4, molar No. 1, molar No. 2, and the anterior moiety of molar No. 3. The fragment extends as far in advance of the premolar as the small palatal foramen marked 21' in Owen's engraving, and backwards it just embraces the maxillary serratures of the maxillo-palatine suture. In width, it about reaches the middle line of the palate, and therefore ends at the mesial maxillary suture. The teeth in our specimen are much better preserved than those used by Prof. Owen for the purposes of his illustration—which latter now constitute specimen No. 46316 of the British Museum extinct marsupial series—indeed, so fine are these teeth in point of preservation that I much doubt if any teeth of *Palorchestes* hitherto recovered could equal them. The photograph has been more especially arranged to depict the working surfaces of these cheek teeth, and the picture is sufficiently good to make evident their generic departures

*My thanks are due to Prof. T. T. Flynn, F.L.S., of the Tasmanian University, for the opportunity of consulting this Paper, which is not in our Museum Library.



Right upper maxillary, and cheek teeth, of *Palorchestes*, sp.

From Mowbray Swamp at Smithton, Tasmania

Total length = 130 mm.

Tooth line (imperfect) = 75 mm.

Width--including zygomatic process of maxillary = 90 mm.

from those of the "Procoptodons," which in point of size they most closely approach. As the present note is chiefly intended to be by way of putting the "find" upon record. I do not propose to enter into such minutiae as might suggest taxonomic segregation from the mainland form of this extinct animal—the more so as I hope to handle and describe some parts of the appendicular skeleton later on.