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of the *Spermophili* (if not all) it is very small, and it is also small in the genus *Geosciurus* of Dr. And. Smith, (which I have no doubt is the same as the genus *Xerus* of Hemp and Ehr.) The palate is proportionally larger in the *Sciuridæ* than any other Rodents. It almost always extends considerably beyond the last molars. In *Sc. Prevostii* however, the palate terminates in the line of the hinder portion of the last molar, and in *Sc. maximus* and *Sc. Leschenaultii* it terminates rather within this line. The position, combined with the small size of the ant-orbital *foramen*, will also serve to distinguish the *Sciuridæ*. The genus *Castor*, in the character of the ant-orbital *foramen*, makes the nearest approach to the present family; here however, this opening is not so low down.

The general form of the skull in the true *Sciuridæ* is short and rounded, the cranial portion is very large, and the nasal portion short. In the genus *Arctomys* the nasal portion is proportionately larger, and the cranial smaller. Here the interorbital portion of the skull is considerably contracted, as we also find the same part in the larger species of *Pteromys*, these however have the short nasal bones, as in the genus *Sciurus*. In *Sc. palmarum*, and in the genera *Spermophilus* and *Geosciurus* (*Sci. erythropus*¹), the skull is considerably elongated and somewhat ovate, the nasal bones are longer than in the true squirrels. The animal last named offers many peculiarities in the form of the *cranium*, it is not however my intention to enter into detail at present; I will merely notice one, viz., the horizontally compressed form of that portion of the zygomatic arch which forms the lower boundary of the orbit: a character in which it differs from all the other *Sciuri* examined by me, but to which I find an approach in the skull of a species of *Spermophilus*, (*Sp. Franklinii*).

The genera and subgenera contained in this family the skulls of which I have examined, are—*Pteromys*, *Sciuropterus*, *Sciurus*, *Macroxus*, *Tamias*, *Geosciurus*, *Spermophilus*, and *Arctomys*.

(To be continued.)

¹ I am indebted to Dr. Richardson for the loan of the skull of this species, and also of the *crania* of several other rodents, which have been of great service to me.