

## NON-FUNCTIONAL INGUINAL MAMMAE IN A LACTATING NORTH AMERICAN BADGER

CHARLES A. LONG

*University of Illinois, Urbana*

**ABSTRACT.** — A lactating female badger (*Taxidea taxus*) collected in Carroll County, Illinois had six functional mammae.

The female North American badger, *Taxidea taxus*, possesses eight mammae. A lactating female badger (Univ. Illinois 29676) that was killed May 25, 1962, at four miles northeast of Chadwick, Carroll County, Illinois, has been preserved frozen until the spring of 1964, at which time I skinned and dissected the carcass. This badger in life had six normally functioning mammae, but its inguinal pair was non-functional. Each inguinal mamma was abnormally small and non-pigmented, and its nipple or teat was hardly protuberant. Furthermore, no lactiferous tissue was noticed underlying the inguinal mammae, whereas large masses of it were found beneath the skin of the large, dark normal mammae.

The length of each nipple, measured on the fresh, moist skin in order from the inguinal one on the right side, was 3 mm. (inguinal), 7, 8, and 7. The approximate diameters of the mammae,

measured in the same manner, were 5 mm. (inguinal), 42, 43, and 45.

Non-functional mammae in *Taxidea* have never been reported, and I can report nothing concerning their origin or frequency in nature. A lactating female (Univ. Illinois 14369) from three miles north and one mile west of St. Joseph, Champaign County, Illinois, killed March 9, 1956, and another (Univ. Illinois 15179) from 6½ miles north and one mile west of St. Joseph, killed November 25, 1956 (both are tanned skins) are characterized by abdominal and pectoral mammae slightly larger than their inguinal mammae. A lactating female (Univ. Illinois 1025) killed June 8, 1949, eight miles east of Canton, Illinois, definitely had possessed eight functioning mammae.

The abnormal badger is adult, showing moderate wear on its molars, marked wear on its canines, and fusion of the nasal sutures. It was probably in its second or third year of life. No placental scars were evident in the uterus, indicating that birth of young had not recently occurred.

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