

## **On the caecum of the red wolf (*Canis jubatus*, Desm.) / by W.H. Flower.**

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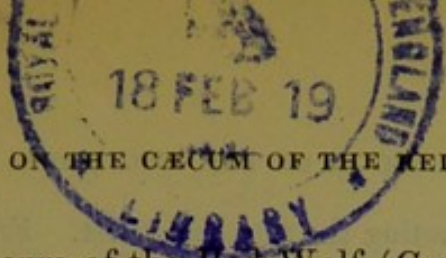
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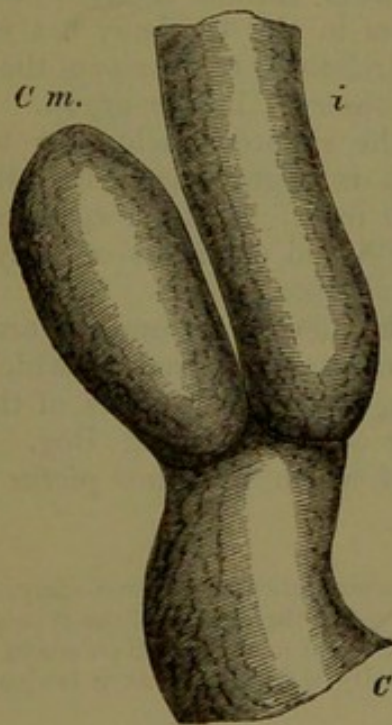


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On the Cæcum of the Red Wolf (*Canis jubatus*, Desm.).

By W. H. FLOWER, LL.D., F.R.S., P.Z.S.

A simple cylindrical cæcum, closely folded several times upon itself, was formerly supposed to be a characteristic of the Canidæ, as all the species which had been dissected up to 1873 agreed generally in the form of this organ. The numerous opportunities of dissecting members of the group which have occurred at the Society's Gardens, have, however, afforded our late Prosector the means of demonstrating that the generalization had been made upon too narrow a basis.



Cæcum of the Red Wolf (*Canis jubatus*); half the size of nature.

*Cm.* Cæcum. *C.* Colon. *i.* Ilium.

The first exception discovered was the South-American *Canis cancrivorus* (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 748), which has a comparatively short cæcum with only a slight curve; and in communicating the observation, Mr. Garrod remarked that it would be interesting to know whether the other South-American Canidæ agree with *C. cancrivorus* in the simplicity and shortness of their cæca.

In a subsequent communication (P. Z. S. 1878, p. 373) Mr. Garrod reverted to the subject, and showed that, of the various species he had dissected, *Nyctereutes procyonides* (from North-east Asia) alone agreed with *Canis cancrivorus* in having a nearly straight cæcum, while *C. laniger*, *C. lagopus*, *C. anthus*, *C. fulvus*, *C. antarcticus*, *C. azaræ*, *Otocyon lalandi*, and *Lycaon pictus* conform with the type of *Canis familiaris*, and *C. aureus* and *C. famelicus* have the organ

somewhat shortened, wanting the terminal twist. From the examination of other specimens preserved by Mr. Garrod, and now in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, I may add that *Canis rutilans*, *C. primævus*, *C. cerdo*, *C. chama*, and *C. magellanicus* have all folded cæca; but differences can be observed in the length and mode of folding, both in them and in the species stated by Mr. Garrod to resemble *C. familiaris*, though without a larger series it is impossible to say whether some of these differences may not be due to individual peculiarity.

It is, however, clear that the form of the cæcum has nothing to do with a geographical division of Canidæ; nor is it, as far as is yet known, correlated with any other structural modification.

The female example of the very handsome and rare Red Wolf or Fox (*Canis jubatus*) from Buenos Ayres, which died lately, after a residence of two years in the Gardens, has enabled me to give a figure of the smallest (relatively to the size of the animal) and simplest form of cæcum yet observed in the group. It lies by the side of the ileum, without the slightest inclination to a curve in either direction. Its length is slightly less than three inches, and its greatest diameter one inch. From a contracted base it expands gradually to the middle, and continues of a cylindrical form to the termination in a conical apex.

There was no striking deviation from the ordinary canine type in any of the remaining viscera of this animal which were forwarded for my examination. The lobes and fissures of the liver agreed in all essentials with those of the common Dog. In the tongue the *lytta* (the absence of which in *Lycaon pictus* is noted by Garrod) was well developed<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Since this note was communicated to the Society, Mr. Ockenden, the Prosector's assistant, has shown me the cæcum of the type specimen of *Canis rudis*, Günther, from Demerara, which died in the Gardens in April last. Though not quite so small proportionally as in *C. jubatus*, it is also straight.

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