

Mammalian Taxonomy

This list includes most of the world's orders of mammals. It also includes the families, genus, and species for all extant Alabama species (excluding a few with limited evidence), the families of several familiar species, and the family, genus, and species of several common domesticated species. You should be familiar with all taxa listed. All underlined taxonomic names will link to the taxon or species page on Animal Diversity Web, which may help you to study.

Alabama species in **blue** and **domesticated species are in orange**. *=introduced or exotic in Alabama; Taxa with a recent name change will be marked with **. In these cases, the name on Animal Diversity Web or in other text may not match this list.

You will need to know all names and classifications to the family level for exam 1. You will be learning all of the species names for the lab practicals.

The superscript label following the common name describes what you required to recognize, including S&S for skin and skull, P&S for photo and skull, Photo for photo only, and Skin for skin only. Assume animal ID is to species unless otherwise noted.

Class **Mammalia**

Subclass **Prototheria** – egg laying mammals

Order **Monotremata** – egg laying mammals

Family **Tachyglossidae** – echidnas

Family **Ornithorhynchidae** - platypuses

Subclass **Theria** –mammals that give birth to live young

Infraclass **Metatheria** - marsupials

Order **Didelphimorphia** – American marsupials

Family **Didelphidae**- American opossums

[*Didelphis virginiana* - Virginia opossum](#) ^{S&S}

Order **Diprotodontia** – koalas, wombats, possums, kangaroos, wallabies

Family **Phascolarctidae** - koalas

Family **Vombatidae** - wombats

Family **Macropodidae** - kangaroos, wallabies

Infraclass **Eutheria** – placental mammals

Order **Tenrecoidea**** - tenrecs, golden moles

Order **Macroscelidea** - elephant shrews

Order **Tubulidentata** - aardvarks

Order **Hyracoidea** - hyraxes

Order **Proboscidea** - elephants

Family **Elephantidae** - elephants

Order **Sirenia** - dugongs, manatees, sea cows

Family **Trichechidae** - manatees

[*Trichechus manatus* - West Indian manatee](#) ^{P&S}

Order **Cingulata** - armadillos

Family **Dasypodidae** - armadillos

[*Dasypus novemcinctus* - nine-banded armadillo](#) ^{S&S}

Order **Pilosa** - sloths and anteaters

Order **Scandentia** - treeshrews

Order **Dermoptera** – flying lemurs

Order **Primates** – lemurs, monkeys, apes, humans

Family **Hominidae** - humans, great apes

[*Homo sapiens*](#) - humans

Order **Lagomorpha** – pikas, rabbits, hares

Family **Leporidae** – rabbits, hares

[*Sylvilagus aquaticus*](#) - swamp rabbit S&S to genus

[*Sylvilagus floridanus*](#) - eastern cottontail S&S to genus

[*Sylvilagus obscurus*](#) - Appalachian cottontail S&S to genus

[*Sylvilagus palustris*](#) - marsh rabbit S&S to genus

Order **Rodentia** – squirrels, beavers, rats, mice, porcupines, guinea pigs

Family **Castoridae** - beavers

[*Castor canadensis*](#) - American beaver S&S

Family **Geomyidae** – pocket gopher

[*Geomys pinetis*](#) - southeastern pocket gopher S&S

Family **Zapodidae** – jumping mouse

[*Zapus hudsonius*](#) - meadow jumping mouse Skin

Family **Cricetidae** – new world mice

[*Microtus ochrogaster*](#) - prairie vole Skin to genus

[*Microtus pinetorum*](#) - woodland vole Skin to genus

[*Ondatra zibethicus*](#) - muskrat S&S

[*Neotoma floridana*](#) - eastern woodrat S&S to genus

[*Neotoma magister*](#) - Allegheny woodrat S&S to genus

[*Ochrotomys nuttalli*](#) - golden mouse Skin

[*Peromyscus gossypinus*](#) - cotton mouse Skin to genus

[*Peromyscus leucopus*](#) - white-footed mouse Skin to genus

[*Peromyscus maniculatus*](#) - deer mouse Skin to genus

[*Peromyscus polionotus*](#) - oldfield mouse Skin to genus

[*Reithrodontomys humulis*](#) - eastern harvest mouse Skin

[*Oryzomys palustris*](#) - marsh rice rat Skin

[*Sigmodon hispidus*](#) - hispid cotton rat S&S

[*Mesocricetus auratus*](#) - Syrian hamster Photo

Family **Muridae** – old world mice and rats

[*Mus musculus*](#)* - house mouse Skin - domestic = laboratory mouse

[*Rattus norvegicus*](#)* - brown rat S&S to genus - domestic = laboratory rat

[*Rattus rattus*](#)* - house rat S&S to genus

Family **Caviidae** – cavies, guinea pigs, capybara

[*Cavia porcellus*](#) - guinea pig Photo

Family **Myocastoridae** - nutria
[Myocastor coypus](#)* - nutria ^{P&S}

Family **Sciuridae** – squirrel
[Sciurus carolinensis](#) - eastern gray squirrel ^{S&S}
[Sciurus niger](#) - eastern fox squirrel ^{S&S}
[Glaucomys volans](#) - southern flying squirrel ^{S&S}
[Marmota monax](#) – woodchuck ^{S&S}
[Tamias striatus](#) - eastern chipmunk ^{S&S}

Order **Scandentia** - treeshrews

Order **Soricomorpha** - shrews and moles

Family **Soricidae** - shrews
[Blarina brevicauda](#) - northern short-tailed shrew ^{Skin to genus & Skull to family}
[Blarina carolinensis](#) - southern short-tailed shrew ^{Skin to genus & Skull to family}
[Cryptotis parva](#) - least shrew ^{Skin to species & Skull to family}
[Sorex fumeus](#) - smoky shrew ^{Skin to genus & Skull to family}
[Sorex hoyi](#) - pygmy shrew ^{Skin to genus & Skull to family}
[Sorex longirostris](#) - southeastern shrew ^{Skin to genus & Skull to family}

Family **Talpidae** - moles
[Scalopus aquaticus](#) - eastern mole ^{S&S}

Order **Erinaceomorpha** - hedgehogs

Order **Carnivora** – cats, dogs, ~~anteaters,~~ bears, otters, seals, and sea lions

Family **Felidae** - cats
[Lynx rufus](#) - bobcat ^{S&S}
[Puma concolor](#) - cougar ^{P&S}
[Felis catus](#) - domestic cat ^{P&S}

Family **Canidae** - dogs
[Canis latrans](#) - coyote ^{P&S}
[Canis familiaris](#) - domestic dog ^{P&S}
[Canis rufus](#) - red wolf ^{P&S}
[Urocyon cinereoargenteus](#) - gray fox ^{S&S}
[Vulpes vulpes](#) - red fox ^{S&S}

Family **Ursidae** - bears
[Ursus americanus](#) - American black bear ^{P&S}

Family **Mustelidae** – weasles, otters, badgers
[Lontra canadensis](#) - northern river otter ^{S&S}
[Mustela frenata](#) - long-tailed weasel ^{S&S}
[Neovison vison](#) - American mink ^{S&S}

Family **Mephitidae** – skunks
[Mephitis mephitis](#) - striped skunk ^{S&S}
[Spilogale putorius](#) - eastern spotted skunk ^{S&S}

- Family **Odobenidae** – walruses
- Family **Otariidae** – sea lions, **fur seals**
- Family **Phocidae** – seals
- Family **Procyonidae** – raccoon, coati
Procyon lotor - raccoon ^{S&S}

Order **Pholidota** - pangolins

Order **Perissodactyla** - horses, zebras, tapirs, rhinoceroses

- Family **Equidae** - horses, zebras, and relatives
Equus caballus - domestic horse ^{P&S}

Family **Rhinocerotidae** – rhinoceroses

Order **Artiodactyla**- swine, peccaries, hippopotamuses, camels, deer

- Family **Suidae** – **hogs and pigs**
*Sus scrofa** - wild boar ^{P&S} - domestic = *Sus scrofa domesticus*

Family **Camelidae** - camels, guanacos

Family **Giraffidae** - giraffes, okapis

Family **Cervidae** - deer, elk, caribou, moose
Odocoileus virginianus - white-tailed deer ^{P&S}

Family **Antilocapridae** - pronghorns

Family **Bovidae** – bison, cattle, **antelopes, sheep**
Bos taurus – cattle ^{P&S}

Family **Hippopotomidae** - hippopotamuses

Order **Cetacea** - whales, porpoises, dolphins

Suborder **Mysticeti** - baleen whales

Suborder **Odontoceti** - toothed whales, porpoises, dolphins

Family **Delphinidae** - dolphins, killer whales, pilot whales

Orcinus orca - killer whale ^{Photo}

Tursiops truncatus - Common bottlenose dolphin ^{Photo}

Stenella frontalis - Atlantic Spotted Dolphin ^{Photo}

Family **Physeteridae** – sperm whales

Physeter macrocephalus - sperm whale ^{Photo}

Order **Chiroptera**

Suborder **Yinpterochiroptera** - Old world bats: flying foxes, horseshoe bats, false-vampire bats

Suborder **Yangochiroptera** - New world bats: fishing bats, sac-wings bats, leaf-nosed bats, free-tailed bats, common bats

Family **Molossidae** - free-tailed bats

Tadarida brasiliensis - Brazilian free-tailed bat ^{Skin}

- Family **Vespertilionidae** – common bats, i.e. evening and vesper bats
- [*Eptesicus fuscus*](#) - big brown bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Lasiurus borealis*](#) - Eastern red bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Lasiurus cinereus*](#) - hoary bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Lasiurus intermedius*](#) - northern yellow bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Lasiurus seminolus*](#) - Seminole bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Nycticeius humeralis*](#) - evening bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Perimyotis subflavus*](#) - tri-colored bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*](#) - Rafinesque's big-eared bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Lasionycteris noctivagans*](#) - silver-haired bat Skull to family & Skin
 - [*Myotis austroriparius*](#) - southeastern myotis Skin to genus & skull to family
 - [*Myotis grisescens*](#) - gray myotis Skin to genus & skull to family
 - [*Myotis leibii*](#) - eastern small-footed myotis Skin to genus & skull to family
 - [*Myotis lucifugus*](#) - little brown bat Skin to genus & skull to family
 - [*Myotis septentrionalis*](#) - northern long-eared myotis Skin to genus & skull to family
 - [*Myotis sodalis*](#) - Indiana myotis Skin to genus & skull to family

Meaning of scientific names of mammals of Alabama

Compiled by John L. Hunt, Lisa A. McWilliams, and Troy L. Best.

These may help you to remember the scientific names. You will not be tested on these.

In alphabetical order by genera.

Bassariscus--Greek for "a little fox."

astutus--Latin for "cunning."

Bison--Greek for "wild ox."

Blarina--a coined name (a made-up word).

brevicauda--Latin for "short-tailed."

carolinensis--means "of Carolina," a reference to the origin of the type specimen.

Bos--Latin for "ox."

taurus--Latin for "bull."

Canis--Latin for "dog."

familiaris--Latin for "domestic or home-like."

latrans--Latin for "barker."

rufus--Latin for "red."

Castor--Greek for "beaver."

canadensis--Latin for "of Canada."

Cervus--Latin for "deer."

elaphus--Greek for "deer."

Corynorhinus--from the Greek *coryn*, meaning "club," and *rhinos*, meaning "nose."

rafinesquii--patronym for Constantine S. Rafinesque, an early American naturalist.

Cryptotis--Greek for "hidden ear."

parva--Latin for "small."

Dama-- from the Latin *dama*, meaning "fallow deer."

Dasyopus--Greek for "hairy foot." Armadillos do not have hairy feet; Linnaeus may have meant "rough-footed."

novemcinctus--Latin for "nine-banded."

Didelphis--Greek for "double womb," referring to the paired uteri.

virginiana--refers to Virginia, origin of the type specimen.

Eptesicus--may be from the Latin or Greek words for "house flier." Big brown bats often live in houses.

fuscus--Latin for "brown."

Equus--Latin for "horse."

caballus--Latin for "pack horse."

Felis--Latin for "cat."

silvestris--Latin for "of the woods."

Geomys--from the Greek *ge* or *geo* meaning "earth," and *mys*, meaning "mouse."

pinetis--Latin for "of the pines."

Glaucomys--from the Greek *glaukos*, meaning "gray," and *mys*, meaning "mouse."

volans--Latin for "flying."

Lasionycteris--from two Greek words, *lasios*, meaning "hairy," and *nycteris*, meaning "bat."

noctivagans--from the Latin *nox*, meaning "night," and *vagans*, meaning "wanderer."

Lasiurus--from the Greek *lasios*, meaning "hairy," and *oura*, meaning "tail," a reference to the heavily furred uropatagium.

borealis--Latin for "northern."

cinereus--Latin for "ashen" or "gray."

intermedius--Latin for "intermediate."

seminolus--refers to the Seminole Indians, who lived in the region where the type specimen was obtained.

Lontra--Latin for "otter."

canadensis--Latin for "of Canada."

Lynx--Greek for "bobcat."

rufus--Latin for "red."

Marmota--Latinized Italian "marmotta," which means "mountain mouse."

monax--from an American Indian name for the woodchuck that means "the digger."

Mephitis--Latin for "smelly."

Meriones--Greek for "companion of Idomeneus."

unguiculatus--Latin for "nail or claw."

Microtus--from the Greek *mikros*, meaning "small," and *otus*, meaning "ear."

ochrogaster--from the Greek *ochro*, meaning "yellow," and *gaster*, meaning "belly."

pinetorum--Latin for "belonging to the pines."

Mus--Latin for "mouse."

musculus--Latin for "little mouse."

Mustela--Latin for "weasel."

frenata--from the Latin *frenum*, meaning "bridle," referring to the facial markings of the weasel.

Myocastor--Greek for "mouse beaver."

coypus--from "coypu" in the Araucanian Indian language of Chile and Argentina.

Myotis--from the Greek words *mys*, meaning "mouse," and *otus*, meaning "ear."

austroriparius--from two Latin words, *austro*, meaning "southern," and *riparius*, which means "frequenting the banks of streams."

griseus--from the Latin word *griseus*, meaning "becoming gray."

leibii--a patronym recognizing George Leib, collector of the type specimen.

lucifugus--Latin for "to flee from light."

septentrionalis--Latin for "of the northern regions."

sodalis--Latin for "companion," a reference to the habit of hibernating in large numbers.

Neotoma--from the Greek *neos*, meaning "new," and *tomos*, meaning "cut." This refers to the fact that it was a new kind of mammal with cutting teeth, distinguishing it from *Mus*, to which it was originally assigned.

floridana--Latin for "of Florida," where the type specimen was collected.

magister--Latin for "chief" or "master."

- Neovison*--from the Greek *neos*, meaning "new."
vison--probably from the Swedish word for "weasel."
- Nycticeius*--Latin for "belonging to the night."
humeralis--Latin for "of the forelimb."
- Ochrotomys*--from the Greek *ochra*, meaning "pale yellow," or "gold," and *mys*, meaning "mouse."
nutalli--a patronym for Thomas Nuttall, an early American naturalist.
- Odocoileus*--from the Greek *odous*, meaning "tooth," and *koilos*, meaning "hollow," referring to prominent depressions in the molar teeth.
virginianus--Latin for "of Virginia," referring to the place where the type specimen was collected.
- Ondatra*--Indian name for the muskrat.
zibethicus--Latin for "musky-odored."
- Oryctolagus*--Greek for "one who digs."
cuniculus--Latin for "rabbit."
- Oryzomys*--from the Greek *oryza*, meaning "rice," and *mys*, meaning "mouse."
palustris--Latin for "marshy."
- Ovis*--Latin for "sheep."
aries--Latin for "ram."
- Peromyscus*--from the Greek *pero*, meaning "pointed," and *muskos*, meaning "little mouse," probably referring to the shape of the skull.
gossypinus--Latin for "of the cotton."
leucopus--from the Greek *leukon*, meaning "white," and *pous*, meaning "foot."
polionotus--possibly from the Latin *polion*, meaning "decorated," and *otus*, meaning "ear."
- Perimyotis*--from the Greek *peri*, meaning "near," *mys*, meaning "mouse," and *otus*, meaning "ear."
subflavus--from the Latin *sub*, meaning "below," and *flavus*, meaning "yellow," referring to the yellowish belly.
- Procyon*--Latin for "before dog." The ancestors of dogs were once believed to be raccoons.
lotor--from the Latin *lutor*, meaning "a washer," referring to the raccoon's habit of manipulating its food in water.
- Puma*--from a Peruvian Indian word.
concolor--Latin for "one color."
yagouaroundi--origin unknown.
- Rattus*--Latin for "rat."
norvegicus--Latin for "of Norway."
- Reithrodontomys*--from the Greek *reithron*, meaning "groove," *odous* meaning "tooth," and *mys*, meaning "mouse," thus, "groove-toothed mouse."
humilis--from the Latin *humilis*, meaning "small."
- Scalopus*--from the Greek words *skalops*, meaning "to dig," and *pous*, meaning "foot," referring to the animals' digging feet.

- aquaticus*--Latin for "water dweller." Linnaeus named the animal from a specimen and knew nothing of its habits; he assumed that because it had webbed feet, the mole was aquatic.
- Sciurus*--from the Greek words *skia*, meaning "shadow," and *oura*, meaning "tail."
carolinensis--Latin for "of Carolina."
niger--Latin for "black."
- Sigmodon*--from the Greek *sigma*, the Greek letter "S," and *odous*, meaning "tooth." This refers to the S-shaped cusp pattern on the last molar.
hispidus--Latin for "rough," referring to the pattern of the fur.
- Sorex*--Latin for "shrew."
fumeus--Latin for "smoke."
hoysi--a patronym (a name honoring someone) recognizing Philip Hoy, a mammalogist in the mid-1800s
longirostris--Latin for "long snout."
- Spilogale*--from the Greek *spilos*, meaning "spot," and *gale*, meaning "weasel."
putorius--from the Latin *putor*, meaning "a foul odor."
- Sus*--Latin for "pig."
scrofa--Latin for "breeding sow."
- Sylvilagus*--From the Latin *sylva*, meaning "forest," and the Greek *lagos*, meaning "hare."
aquaticus--Latin for "water dweller."
floridanus--Latin for "of Florida," referring to the origin of the type specimen.
obscurus--Latin for "obscure," or "indistinct."
palustris--Latin for "marshy."
- Tadarida*--a coined name.
brasiliensis--Latin for "of Brazil."
- Tamias*--Greek for "a storer," referring to the food-storing habits of chipmunks.
striatus--Latin for "striped."
- Taxidea*--from the Greek meaning "to put in order or arrange."
taxus--New Latin meaning "badger."
- Trichechus*--from the Greek meaning "having hair."
manatus--derived from the Carib word *manati*, meaning "with breasts." When sailors first saw them, they believed they were mermaids.
- Urocyon*--from the Greek *oura*, meaning "tail," and *kyon*, meaning "dog."
cinereoargenteus--from the Latin *cinereus*, meaning "ash-colored," and *argenteus*, meaning "silvery."
- Ursus*--Latin for "bear."
americanus--Latin for "of America."
- Vulpes*--Latin for "fox."
- Zapus*--Greek for "strong feet."
hudsonius--named for Hudson Bay, Canada, where the type specimen was collected.