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ON ARCTOTHERIUM FROM THE PLEISTOCENE OF YUKON.*

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A well preserved skull of the giant bear *Arctotherium* has lately been acquired by the Geological Survey and is of interest in many particulars. The specimen consists of the skull without the lower jaw and was discovered at Gold-run Creek, Yukon, in frozen Pleistocene deposits at a depth of forty feet beneath the surface of the ground.

This widely distributed but imperfectly known genus is distinctive of the Pleistocene of the American continents. In North America three species have been described, viz.: *A. pristinum* (Leidy), from South Carolina; *A. simum*, Cope, from California, and *A. haplodon*, Cope, from Pennsylvania. The South American species, *A. bonariense* (P. Gervais) is from the River Plata, Buenos Ayres.

The discovery of the skull at Gold-run creek extends the known range of the genus very much northward, as this is the first record of the occurrence of *Arctotherium* in the northern half of this continent.

As indicated principally by the teeth, *Arctotherium* is intermediate between the old-world *Hyænarctos* and the genus *Ursus*, and is notable for its great size which equalled, if it did not exceed, the largest species of both these genera.

The Yukon skull is remarkably broad in proportion to its length and represents an individual of great physical power and bulk.

It is in a good state of preservation, but has suffered injury in the upper anterior portion, the nasals being absent with the greater part of the forehead broken away. On the left side the second incisor and the premolars in advance of the fourth have fallen out and been lost, as have also the three incisors, the premolars in front of the fourth, and the second molar, of the right side. Otherwise the specimen is perfect.

*Communicated by permission of the Director of the Geological Survey.