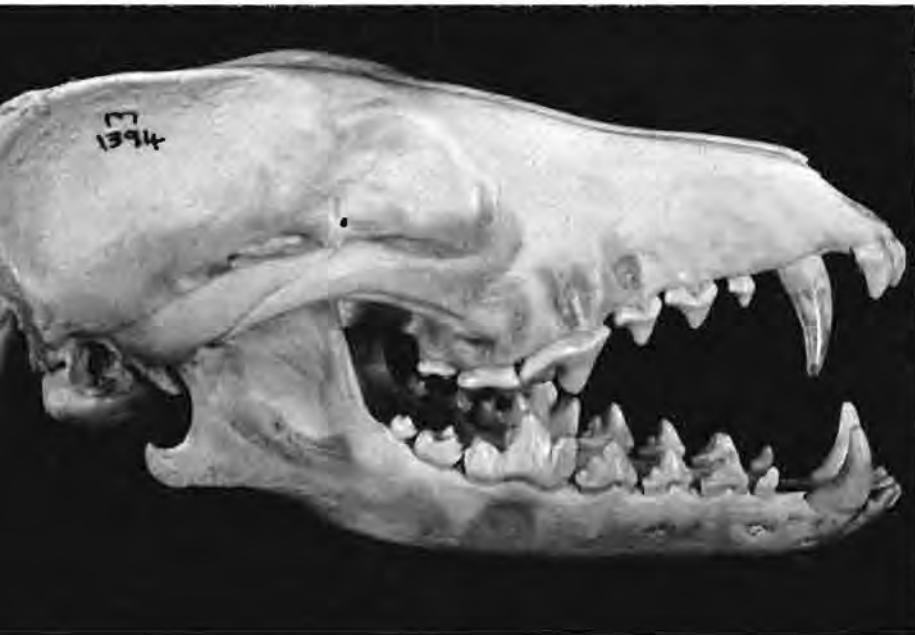


"JACKALS" OF THE O.F.S.



Photographs of skulls all 4/5 actual size.

Six upper and seven lower cheek teeth; skull large, length over 150 mm — Black-backed jackal.

Six upper and seven lower cheek teeth, skull smaller, length under 150 mm — Silver jackal.



	<i>Black-backed jackal</i> <i>Rooijakkals</i> (<i>Canis mesomelas</i>)	<i>Silver jackal</i> <i>Silwerjakkals</i> (<i>Vulpes chama</i>)
Distribution	Throughout the O.F.S.	Throughout the O.F.S.
Food	Carriion, domestic stock, insects and rodents	Mainly rodents
Habits	Mainly nocturnal Occur solitary or in pairs	Nocturnal Occur solitary or in pairs 3—5 young per litter
Total length	1 005 mm	900 mm
Mass	7 kg.	3 kg

Dogs, wolves, jackals and foxes are all members of the family *Canidae* of the order *Carnivora*. The family has a world-wide distribution but is not native to Madagascar, the West Indies, New Zealand and a number of small islands. In Australia it is only represented by the dingo. The domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) is undoubtedly the oldest companion of man, but there is no definite information about its early ancestry. Its ancestor was probably a strain of wolf.

One species of jackal — the black-backed (*Canis mesomelas*), and two species of fox — the bat-eared (*Otocyon megalotis*) and the silver fox (*Vulpes chama*) — occur in the Free State. The aardwolf (*Proteles cristatus*) is actually a member of the family *Protelidae* — in other words, it is neither a fox nor a jackal or a hyena. This animal occurs only in Southern Africa. Within the border of the Republic, however, the two indigenous species of jackal (the second species is the side-striped jackal

Canis adustus, a species not to be found in the O.F.S.) as well as the two foxes, and the aardwolf, are all generally known as "jackals". The bat-eared fox is also known as the draaijakkals. This name is derived from its extraordinary skill in doubling upon its tracks and performing sharp turning movements when in full flight (draai = turn). The silver fox is sometimes incorrectly called draaijakkals. The photographs are those of mounted specimens in the Museum.



Seven to eight upper and eight lower cheek teeth — Bat-eared fox.

Few peg-like cheek teeth, widely spaced — Aardwolf.



Bat-eared fox
Bakoorjakkals
(*Otocyon megalotis*)

Mainly south and southwestern O.F.S.
Mainly insects
Diurnal and nocturnal
Occur in pairs or family groups of up to six.
2—3 young per litter
833 mm
4 kg

Aardwolf
Maanhaarjakkals
(*Proteles cristatus*)

Throughout the O.F.S.
Almost exclusively termites
Nocturnal
Occur singly or in pairs

955 mm
9 kg