

With the author's compliments.

Diagnosis of a New Piping Hare from Yezo

By

KYUKICHI KISHIDA

Zoologist to the Institute for Mammalogy and
Ornithology, Imperial Agricultural
Experiment Station, Nishigahara, Tokyo.



Reprinted from LANSANIA, Tokyo, Vol. 2, No. 13.

April 29, 1930.

Diagnosis of a New Piping Hare from Yeso

By

KYUKICHI KISHIDA

Zoologist to the Institute for Mammalogy and
Ornithology, Imperial Agricultural
Experiment Station, Nishigahara, Tokyo.

[Received April 23, 1930]

Messrs. J. A. ALLEN and ROY C. ANDREWS *have once described a Korean piping hare, *Ochotona coreana*** based on a pair of specimens. They expressed the view that the species would probably represent a new local form of the *Ochotona hyperborea* group. Beside this, an undescribed form of the animal was collected in a lot of three individuals at a certain part of the Island of Yeso. The present author had the opportunity of examining one of the material through the kind aid of Professor EIJIRO KINOSHITA of the Hokkaido Imperial University at Sapporo. To that gentleman, the author's regards are due. It is

* ALLEN & ANDREWS. 1913..... Mammals collected in Korea. Bull. Amer. Mus., Vol 32, Article 24. (Especially on this animal pp. 429, 430).

** Japanese name: Kohrai Hatsuka Usagi.

purpose of this brief to describe this species here under the new name.

Ochotona yezoensis n. sp.

Japanese Name : Yezo Hatsuka Usagi.

Anglican Name : Yezo Piping Hare.

The holotype of this new species is an adult male caught by the Forestry Bureau of the Hokkaido Government Office in Prov. Kitami, a northern part of that Island, in the month of October 1928. It is now preserved in the zoological museum of the dendrological institute of the Hokkaido University.

Color. The body is rufous brown above. Some of the longer hairs are washed with black and darkened posteriorly. The lower parts are pale brown, but not whitish.

The head is furnished with a pair of pure light rufous patches extending outwards to the ears. The ears are slightly grayish both on external and internal surfaces, and furnished with paler rufous border. The whiskers are entirely black in some of the upper position but mixed with black and greyish white in the others. The chin is greyish, and washed with pale rufous.

The feet are whitish brown above with the exception of the soles which are grey, being deeper in those of the hind legs.

External characters. The ears are large and rounded. The fur is 12.5 mm. long on the above. The feet are covered by long hairs on both above and below. The toe-pads are naked, instead of concealing by the hair of the digits.

Cranial characters. The mandible is lightly built. The part below the cheek teeth is narrower. The coronoid process is very minute. The condyle is moderately developed. The angular process is short, and acutely pointed at the posterior extremity.

The skull is also lightly built. It is broader yet shorter in the rostral part.

The nasal is broader than that of the Korean representative. It is strongly emarginate at the frontal border being convex at its base. The antero-lateral part of the premaxillary is invisible from above on account of the fact that the antero-lateral expansion of the nasal is so highly inflated.

The frontal is very strongly constricted at the inter-orbital region. The sagittal crest exists only at the utmost posterior part of the parietal behind a transverse line.

The interparietal is less convex (nearly flattened) near the median line. The median crest of the interparietal is moderately raised.

The uppermost part of the supra-occipital is shorter and strongly concave on the median line.

The posterior maxillary foramen is rounded and subtriangular, but its sides converge anteriorly and broader yet shorter than that of the Korean congener.

The pterygoid ridge is narrower and shorter.

The interpterygoidal fossa is much broader than in the Korean species.

Measurements of the holotype are as follows:

Head and body 183.0 mm.; the distance from the end of snout to the frontal margin of eye 14.5 mm.; do., from the posterior end of eye to the ear 22.0 mm.; ear 20.0 mm.; fore foot s. u. 17.0 mm.; hind foot s. u. 24.5 mm.; skull, greatest length, 41.0 mm.; nasal 13.0 x 6.7 mm.; interorbital width 4.4 mm; zygomatic width, 20.8 mm; brain-case 17.5 mm broad by 10.9 mm. deep; condylobasal length 34.3 mm.; incisive foramen 5.0 x 5.2 mm.; diagonal length of tympanic bulla 12.5 mm.; upper diastema 8.5 mm.; upper cheek tooth-row 8.2 mm.; mandible 28.0 mm., lower diastema 6.0 mm., lower cheek tooth-row 8.2 mm.