

Notes on the Yesso Wolf.

by

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Industry, Department of Agriculture and Forestry (in the
Imperial Agricultural Experiment Station, Nishigahara, Tokyo).



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I. Introduction.

Formerly, wolves were found in great numbers in Hokkaido (Yesso) and they were abhorred by the inhabitants as a hindrance to cultural facilities. It seems that they were totally destroyed due to the efforts of the Colonization Bureau. It appears to me that there are only two authentic specimens still remaining in this country, at present, and they are in the possession of the Museum annexed to the Imperial University of Hokkaido. Fortunately, these specimens are adult male and female; the male was procured at village of Toyohira, district of Sapporo, Province of Ishikari, in June, 1881, and the female was taken a little earlier, in August, 1879, at village of Shiraishi in the same district. The parts of the skull that offer the points indispensable to identification of the species such as rostral and alveolated parts are hidden in the mounted specimens. I cannot take them out and examine them now, but so far as I have been able to examine from the outside, I decided to propose a new subspecies for them.

II. Description.

Canis lupus hattai KISHIDA, n. subsp.

Japanese name: Yezo Ohkami.

Anglican name: Yezo Wolf.

Holotype * Preserved in the Museum annexed to the Imperial University of Hokkaido. ♂ summer pelage; locality, City of Sapporo (captured in June, 1881).

Color: Body is all whitish; face is white and the whiskers beneath the ear are greyish-white, mixed with long black hair. Nape is dark brown, the rest of the parts have some long black hair and many dark brown hair. Tail is white; tip of the tail is blackish-brown near the pencil. Claws are blackish brown.

Fur: Upper hair in the middle part of the back of the body are 53 mm. long and the lower hair are 34 mm. long. Upper hair on the crown are 45 mm. long and the lower hair measures about 25 mm. in length. Long hair are also growing thick on the inside of the ear.

Teeth: Row of upper incisors is 37.3 mm.; distance between incisor and canine is 10.0 mm.; distance between canine and pre-molar is —. Row of lower incisors 28.5 mm.; distance between incisor and canine is —; distance between canine and pre-molar is 9.5 mm.

Allotype: Preserved in the Museum annexed to the Imperial University of Hokkaido. ♀ summer pelage; locality, City of Sapporo (captured in August, 1879).

Color: Upper part is dark brown; tip of the upper hair being washed with black. Under-part is almost white and slightly brownish-yellow. Upper hair is dirty white; lower hair is of pale brown but looks pretty dark. Tip of the snout is black; face is dirty pale brownish-yellow. Crown and forehead are distinctly greyish. Hair on the upper nape to the back

is long and dark in color. Tail is bushy and greyish-black. It has a black line on the forearm like in *Canis lupus hodophylax*. Long hair covering the sole of hind foot is of brownish-yellow.

Fur: Upper hair on the middle part of the back of the body is 119 mm. in length; lower hair is 33 mm. long; the hair on the crown is 58 mm., and the lower hair is about 20 mm. in length.

The external measurements. Unit mm.

Sex	head & body	tail	hind foot (s. u.)	ear	inter- orbital part	anterior rostrum	posterior rostrum	radial part	tibial part
♂ holotype	1290	400	—	115	90	136	121	220	312
♀ allotype	1200	270	250	105	76	142	122	228	290

III. Points Presented for Consideration.

As the wolf is extensively distributed geographically, I take no exception to dividing it into many subspecies according to the locality, but if one were to examine carefully the papers written by various writers touching on the subject such as SCHREBER (1776), RICHARDSON (1829), TEMMINCK (1845), AUDUBON and BACHMAN (1851), SCHRENCK (1858), NEHRING (1885), MIVART (1890), MATSCHE (1907), CABRERA (1907), NOACK (1910), MILLER (1912), HATTA (1915), ALTOBELLO (1921), DYBOWSKI (1922), ABE (1923, 1930), KISHIDA (1924, 1926), DOMANIEWSKI (1926), etc., one will certainly find it difficult to decide as to what will be the proper division of the species, because of the reason that he will also find firstly, not enough materials have been collected in any one of the localities for proper comparison; secondly, the measurements of the skulls are not much of help in distinguishing the species, and lastly, the external measurements and the coloration of the furs are the only things that are comparatively useful. However, one who has seen numbers of furs of *Canis lupus coreanus* and knows that they vary greatly in coloration, like myself, feel disposed to

think that the separation of subspecies may prove to be difficult when a large number of specimens from respective localities has been examined.

From a standpoint of one who actually concerns himself in the study of mammals as I am, cannot possibly leave the wolf from Hokkaido as in early days, which even a layman can easily distinguish from that from Japan Proper, because of the reason that *Canis lupus hodophylax* from Japan Proper, *Canis lupus coreanus* from Korea, *Canis lupus siberianus* from Amoor Land, and *Canis lupus* dybowski* from Kamtchatka have already been recognized as the subspecies of respective localities, and seeing that Hokkaido is separated from the Continent in which several subspecies of wolf occur, by Saghalin and the Kuriles in which no wolf is to be now found, and, it is also separated from Japan Proper where Japanese wolf occurs, by the Tsugaru Strait. It is very evident from the fact given above that Yezo wolf is a distinct form, and I, therefore, propose a new subspecies for it.

DR. SABURO HATTA who has lived many years in Sapporo and had charge of the primary types, and, who has contributed greatly to the zoogeography, and knowing that he has concerned himself in wolf from Hokkaido, I named the subspecies *hattai* in honor of Doctor HATTA.

I have the pleasant duty of acknowledging my indebtedness to Dr. TETSUO INUKAI, Director of the Museum annexed to the Imperial University of Hokkaido and Mr. SHIMPEI ICHIKAWA, who have kindly permitted me examine the specimens.

* It is also recorded in 1893 from the islands of Shmshu (Mr. TARAO! Chishima Tanken Jikki) and of Paramshir, N. Kurile (Hokkaido-Tsuhran).