PROCEEDINGS

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A NEW MUSK-DEER FROM KOREA.

BY N. HOLLISTER.

[By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]



During the winter of 1902-3, Dr. William Lord Smith, of Boston, hunted in southwestern peninsular Korea, and later, with other spoils of the trip, presented to the United States National Museum the skin of an undescribed musk-deer. Doctor Smith writes of his trip: * '1 started from Mok-po (lat. 35°) and went down the coast, partly by boat and partly on foot, to the end of the peninsula. The specimens in question were collected during November and December, 1902, and January, 1903. I was never far from the western coast line and was really tiger shooting, bagging two tigers myself, my hunter getting one.''

Korea appears not to have been included in the range of the musk-deer as given in recent works, though the animal was recorded from there as far back as 1867 by Père David.† Had Doctor Smith undertaken his trip in summer, he would, doubtless, have missed the capture of this handsome new species.

Moschus parvipes sp. nov.

Type from mountains near Mok-po, South Tscholla Province, Korea. Cat. No. 143,184 United States National Museum. Skin only, collected winter of 1902-3, by Dr. William Lord Smith.

General characters.—Smaller than Moschus moschiferus or any of the described related forms; legs slender and feet small, with much smaller main and lateral hoofs. Color strikingly rich and dark, with sharp markings; hair of winter coat much softer and shorter than in M. moschiferus, only about 35 mm. long on shoulders.

^{*} Letter to Austin H. Clark, January 27, 1910.

[†]Bull, nouv. arch, mus. d'hist, nat, Paris, 111, p. 29, 1867.

Color of type.—Top of head, from nose to back of nape, dark blackish brown; cheeks, spot between eye and ear, and sides of muzzle, mixed with yellowish white; ears outside mixed black and white, inside pure white, tips rimmed with black; a white streak from eye to throat; throat mixed black and white. A snow-white streak, sharply defined, extends from ear, joins the white of throat on side of neck, and extends backward to shoulders. Back, from nape to rump, pale russet, much mixed with dark blackish brown, and with many indistinct creamy white spots, which become especially numerous and more distinct on posterior half of body and hips. Sides dark blackish brown; underparts mixed brown and white. Shoulders and forelegs outside, dark brown; inside of legs with a streak of mixed brown and white the entire length to lateral hoofs. Hips and hind legs dark brown with stripe of mixed black and white down front of leg to near hoofs. Tail dark blackish brown above; mixed with white beneath; an indistinct whitish area below tail.

Measurements of dry skin.—Length from nose to root of tail, 875 mm.; hind foot, to end of hoofs, 255; fore foot, to end of hoofs, 170; ear, 77; length of front surface of forward hoofs, 25; of hind hoofs, 27; length of hind lateral hoofs, 20.5.

Remarks.—Unfortunately, the skull of this specimen was destroyed for food by Doctor Smith's native assistants before it could be saved, and the cranial characters of the species are therefore unknown.