

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW HARE FROM BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

BY N. HOLLISTER.

[Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

A study of the African hares in the collection of the United States National Museum has shown the necessity for recognizing the following new subspecies:

Lepus capensis abbotti, subsp. nov.

Type from plains east of Mount Kilimanjaro, British East Africa; ♀ adult, skin and skull. U. S. National Museum, No. $\frac{1}{3} \frac{9}{1} \frac{0}{7} \frac{1}{4}$. Collected September 20, 1888, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—One of the chain of subspecies of *Lepus capensis*, most resembling typical *capensis* and *Lepus capensis crawshayi*. Differs from *L. c. capensis* in generally richer coloration and in the deeper ochraceous sides, limbs, and nape; ears browner, less gray. From its nearest geographical neighbor, *L. c. crawshayi*, which, when in fresh pelage, is also rather a richly colored form, it is distinguished by the more ochraceous tone of the buffy hair rings above; more ochraceous, less blackish, shoulders and sides of neck; deeper ochraceous nape-patch, throat-patch, sides, and limbs; and browner ears. The ears average slightly shorter than in *crawshayi*. Skull as in *crawshayi* but with rostrum and nasal bones longer. A young example in juvenile coat is decidedly darker (more brownish, less gray) than the young of *crawshayi* in corresponding pelage, with much deeper colored nape and throat.

Measurements of type specimen.—Ear from notch, dry, 82 millimeters. Skull: Occipitonasal length, 87.5; condylobasal length, 76.9; zygomatic breadth, 40.5; interorbital constriction, 15.9; postorbital constriction, 10.3. breadth of braincase, 28.7; diagonal length of nasals, 38.8; greatest breadth of nasals, 19.7; maxillary tooth row, 15.3; mandibular tooth row, 16.1.

Remarks.—The resemblance of the hare from the Kilimanjaro plains to *Lepus capensis capensis* of South Africa has been noted by various

authors.* Later† the animal was referred to *Lepus crawshayi* de Winton, originally described from Kitwyi, central British East Africa. Specimens of East African hares are so rarely in good fresh pelage that without large series of skins satisfactory comparisons are difficult to make. Out of twenty-five skins of *Lepus capensis crawshayi* in the National Museum collection only two or three specimens are in fresh pelage like the type and one adult topotype of *L. c. abbotti*, but comparison of these specimens leaves no doubt as to the subspecific distinction of the Kilimanjaro hare. The young example referred to *abbotti* comes from Maji-ya-chumvi, between the Taita Hills and the coast. It is interesting that the Kilimanjaro hare resembles in color the Cape form so much more than it does the intermediate subspecies.

* True, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 15, p. 468, 1892; Thomas, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 6, vol. 12, p. 269, 1893.

† Thomas, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 8, vol. 6, p. 316, 1910.