

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF MOLE, DYMEC-  
ODON PILIROSTRIS, FROM JAPAN.

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Seven years ago, at the request of Prof. E. S. Morse, the authorities of the Boston Society of Natural History sent to the National Museum two specimens of mammals in alcohol, from Yenosima, at the mouth of the Bay of Yeddo, Japan. The bottle in which they were contained having been misplaced, they have remained unidentified until the present time. One of the specimens is a common house-rat, *Mus decumanus*; the other is an insectivore belonging to a genus hitherto undescribed.

The latter specimen closely resembles *Urotrichus talpoides* in general appearance, but differs in dentition as well as in proportions.

*Diagnosis.*

DYMECODON,\* new genus.

General appearance of *Urotrichus*. Dentition as follows:

$$I. \frac{3}{2} \quad C. \frac{1}{1} \quad PM. \frac{3}{3} \quad M. \frac{3}{3} \times 2 = 38.$$

Anterior incisors broad, spatulate.

DYMECODON PILIROSTRIS, new species.

General appearance of *U. talpoides*: Tail vertebræ almost exactly one-half the length of the head and body; with the hairs, two-thirds the same length. Soles and palms entirely covered with scales; snout with rather long, fine, dark hairs.

*General description.*

The chief differences separating this animal from *Urotrichus* and *Neurotrichus* lie in the form and number of the teeth. The first superior incisor is low and broad, and resembles the teeth of *Phocæna* in appearance. It is the broadest tooth anterior to the true molars. The second incisor is nearly as large as the first, and resembles it in shape. The third incisor is very small—about one-fourth the size of the first. The crown is simple and rounded. The canine resembles the third incisor in size and shape. The first premolar is intermediate in size between the first and second incisors, and is conical and pointed. The second premolar is smaller than the second incisor, and rounded. The third premolar and the true molars are as in *Urotrichus*.

\*Teeth of two lengths—from δύο, two; μήκος, length; ὀδὸν, tooth. Refers to the alternation of large and small teeth in the lower jaw.



The anterior lower incisor is like the first upper incisor in form and shape. The second approaches the first in size, but is procumbent and bears a triangular accessory cusp posteriorly. The canine is minute and simple. It is procumbent, as are also the premolars. The first premolar is larger than the first incisor and bears a rounded accessory cusp posteriorly. The second is small and simple. The third is the largest tooth anterior to the true molars. It has a prominent posterior accessory cusp. The molars resemble those of *Urotrichus*.

The snout is covered with short dark hairs like those of the body. The soles and palms are entirely scaly throughout. The tail is half as long as the head and body, and is well clothed with hairs about 7<sup>mm</sup> long. Its scales, as well as those of the feet, are dark-brown. The hair of the body is about 5<sup>mm</sup> in length, of a dark-brown color, with strong greenish metallic luster in reflected light.

*Measurements of alcoholic specimens.*

Measurements.	15291. <i>Dymecodon</i> <i>pilirostris</i> ♂.		13713. <i>Urotrichus</i> <i>talpoides</i> ♀.		10717. <i>Neurotrichus</i> <i>Gibbsii</i> ♂ juv.	
	mm.	100ths.	mm.	100ths.	mm.	100ths.
Length of head and body.....	66	100.0	80	100.0	53	100.0
Length of tail vertebræ.....	35	53	34	42.5	33	62.2
Length of tail with hairs.....	45	68.2	42	52.5	38	71.7
Extremity of snout to eye.....	15	22.7	17	21.25	13	24.5
Extremity of snout to ear (anterior angle).....	25	37.9	28	35.0	21	39.6
Fore foot with claws.....	11	16.6	12	15.0	10	19.0
Length of longest claw.....	4	6.1	4	5.0	3.5	6.6
Hind foot with claws.....	15	22.7	17	21.25	14	26.4
Length of longest claw.....	3	4.6	2.5	3.25	3.5	6.6
Length of auricular opening.....	4	6.1	5.5	6.9	3.0	5.6

In dentition *Dymecodon* most closely approaches *Neurotrichus*, but has an additional premolar on each side of the upper jaw. The thick, well-clothed tail resembles that of *Urotrichus*.

The genus is described from a single alcoholic specimen, No.  $\frac{15291}{22139}$ , from Yenosima, at the mouth of the Bay of Yeddo, Japan.

WASHINGTON, December 23, 1885.



True, Frederick W. 1886. "Description of a new genus and species of mole, *Dymecodon pilirostris*, from Japan." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 9(557), 97–98. <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.557.97>.

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