

louring there are also points of distinction: in lieu of the dull brown tint on the top of the head and back, the present species possesses rich rufous brown feathers. In one specimen the body is yellowish white beneath, but in the other it is pure white.

Mr. Waterhouse then proceeded to make some observations upon a series of skulls of Rodents which were upon the table. These skulls belonged chiefly to species of the various genera contained in the families *Chinchillidæ* (consisting of the genera *Chinchilla*, *Lagotis*, and *Lagostomus*), and *Caviidæ*—composed of the genera *Cavia*, *Kerodon*, *Dolichotis*, and *Hydrochærus*. Numerous points of resemblance between these two families were dwelt upon, more particularly in the structure of the teeth, the form of the palate, the contracted glenoid cavity, the form of the lower jaw, and direction of the lower pair of incisors. The *Caviidæ*, however, possess certain characters, independent of those observable in the form of the teeth, which renders it easy to distinguish them from the *Chinchillidæ*. He alluded especially to the shortness of the condyloid process of the lower jaw, the forward position of the coronoid process, the peculiar projecting ridge on the outer side of the horizontal ramus, and the form of the descending ramus or angle of the jaw; this projects considerably beyond the line of the coronoid process, whereas in the *Chinchillidæ* it terminates in a line with the posterior portion of the coronoid process, or projects but slightly beyond that line.

Among the *Chinchillidæ*, the *Lagostomus trichodactylus*, observes Mr. Waterhouse, approaches most nearly to the Cavies, the angle of the lower jaw being less acute and the coronoid process more forward than in the other species.

In the imperfect state of the palate, the narrowness of the anterior and posterior sphenoids, the form of the occipital condyles, the form of the articular portion of the lower jaw, and the almost horizontal direction of the incisors of the lower jaw of the Chinchillas and Cavies, Mr. Waterhouse stated he had found characters which induced him to place those animals next before the *Leporidae*.



Waterhouse, G. R. 1839. "On the Crania of the Rodents belonging to the families Caviidae and Chinchillidae." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 7, 61–61.

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