

XVIII.—*On the Tsu-shima Representative of the Japanese Sable.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE late Mr. P. A. Holst, while collecting birds for Mr. Henry Seebohm in the far East, obtained and sent home five specimens of the Marten which inhabits the islands known as Tsu-shima, between Corea and Japan. These specimens are clearly related to the Japanese Sable (*Mustela melampus*), but differ so much in the details of their coloration as to demand subspecific separation. Two of the specimens are in summer pelage and three in winter, and, for comparison with them, there are in the British Museum one summer and four winter examples of the Japanese form. The summer and one of the winter specimens are co-types of Temminck's species, while the former is, in addition, the type of *M. japonicus* of Gray, who, in spite of Temminck's definite account of the seasonal changes, considered the brown summer form as characterizing a different species, and re-named it accordingly.

Mustela melampus tsuensis, subsp. n.

Similar to the typical form in size, quality of fur, and in cranial and dental characters, but distinguished by the following colour-characters:—

In winter pelage.—General colour above dirty yellowish brown instead of rich orange-yellow. Top of head to nape, instead of only to forehead, ashy greyish white. Muzzle, up to and including the orbital region, and lips (both upper and lower) black; interramia* brown; throat white, in continuation with the white of the cheeks and crown, passing on the chest and belly into dark brownish yellow. Fore limbs black from the elbow downwards; hind limbs black on the feet, brown below the knee.

In this pelage the most marked distinctions from *typicus* are the black instead of brown muzzle and lips, the brown instead of white interramia, and white instead of yellowish throat, besides the difference in general tone and greater extension backwards of the ashy colour of the crown.

* *Interramia.*—The space between the rami of the lower jaw, behind the "chin" but anterior to the "throat." In describing mammals a name is constantly being wanted for this region; but I have been quite unable to discover whether there is already one in existence, and therefore now suggest one. I have personally felt the want of such a word again and again, especially when describing antelopes, in which the interramia is particularly distinct from either chin or throat.

In summer pelage.—General colour singularly like that of a dark-coloured pole-cat (*Putorius putorius*), much darker than in the typical form. All the parts that are brown in *typicus* are black in *tsuensis*, while the whole of the limbs, and not only their distal portions, are black. Below, the lips and interramia are black, the light mottling of the throat is less in extent but much brighter in colour, orange-yellow or orange, and the belly is much darker brown. Some of these differences may be due to the faded state of the only summer *typicus* available, and therefore less stress is to be laid on them than on those in the winter pelage. On this account the type selected is a winter example.

Approximate dimensions of the type, from a skin (♂):—

Head and body 470 millim.; tail 160; hind foot 85.

Skull: basal length 78; greatest length 88; greatest breadth 54; interorbital breadth 23; palate length from gnathion 41; palate breadth between outer corners of \underline{P}^4 30.

Hab. Tsu-shima Islands.

Type: B.M. 91. 10. 14. 3, collected at Kamoze, April 17, 1891, by Mr. P. A. Holst.

XIX.—On a new Gazelle from Central Arabia.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

SURGEON LIEUT.-COLONEL A. S. G. JAYAKAR, of Muscat, to whom our knowledge of the fauna of South-eastern Arabia is largely due, has recently sent to the British Museum a further consignment of mammals, collected within the last two years. Besides the Oman specimens, all of which belong to species recorded in my paper on the mammals of that district*, there are several skins of a Gazelle received by Dr. Jayakar from Nejd, in the interior of Arabia, and these prove to represent a most distinct form from any previously known.

It may be called

Gazella marica, sp. n.

Size about as in *G. dorcas*. Colour of head very much as in *G. leptoceros* and *Loderi*—that is to say, with the usual gazelline face-markings almost obsolete. The central and lateral dark bands of the face are of about the general body-colour, and very slightly defined from the paler bands between them. In the middle line the central dark band, such as it

* P. Z. S. 1894, p. 448.



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