

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.

is, barely reaches to the level of the anterior canthus, the whole forehead, over an area roughly corresponding to the frontal bones, being white. Ears long, their backs uniformly pale fawnish white. Body pale fawn, of about the tint of *G. dorcas*, much paler than in the dark *G. muscatensis*. Pale lateral band scarcely visible; dark lateral band and pygal band pale brown, little marked, scarcely darker than the dorsal colour. Limbs whitish or very pale fawn throughout; distinct knee-tufts present.

Skull of about the size and proportions of that of *G. dorcas*, but the nasals are longer and the premaxillæ shorter; the nasal opening is consequently shorter and also broader. Posteriorly the nasals are more broadly rounded. Bullæ much inflated.

Horns unfortunately not perfectly describable, as in the only old male they have had their ends cut off, and the type is rather immature. So far as can be seen, however, they are of a somewhat lyrate shape, short, not very strongly curved backwards, and with their ends turned inwards towards each other. Female with horns of the usual proportions.

As to measurements, the distance from the calcaneum to the tip of the hoof round the curve is 305 millim., the same measurement in *G. muscatensis* being about an inch less. The ears, moistened, are about 135 millim. from notch to tip.

Skull of the type: basal length 150 millim.; greatest length 167; greatest breadth 77; nasals, length 57, breadth 22; nasal opening 42×24 ; gnathion to orbit 88; gnathion to front of tooth-row 36; palate length 86.

The horns of the type are just 200 millim. (8 inches) in length round the curve outside, and, judging from comparison with the older specimen, would have probably become about a couple of inches longer.

Hab. Nejd, Central Arabia.

Type Brit. Mus. 97. 1. 14. 5.

Dr. Jayakar says in his letter:—"Among the mammals are four Reem Gazelles from the Nejd desert, and one from Dahireh, the north-western district of Oman. It is probable that the species extends down to the desert behind Oman, as that is continuous with the Nejd desert."

No described species really needs any detailed comparison with *G. marica*, which differs from nearly all known Gazelles by its obsolete face-markings. Of the few species similarly pale-faced, *G. leptoceros* and *Loderi* are much larger and have wholly different elongate horns, and *G. gutturosa*, *subgutturosa*, and *picticaudata* have hornless females.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1897. "XIX.—On a new Gazelle from central Arabia." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 19, 162–163. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939708680524>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/63495>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939708680524>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/59618>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.