

Fragmenta Theriologica

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ANOMALIES OF THE FACIAL PART OF THE SKULL OF A HAMSTER

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A young male hamster, *Cricetus cricetus* (Linnaeus, 1758) was killed on September 20th, 1966 in the Lublin district. The dimensions of its body and skull come within the limits given by various authors (cf. e. g. Vinogradov & Gromov, 1952), but the weight is slightly smaller (315 g).

Considerable divergences from the average occur in the facial part of the skull, expressed primarily in excessive growth of the incisors. The left I^1 protruded beyond the upper lip, forming an incomplete circle (less 4.5 mm) 16 mm in diameter (Fig. 1a). Its total length measured on the external side is 44 mm. The right incisor is longer (46 mm) and forms a circle 15 mm in diameter only 1.5 mm of which is missing. It was growing in the left maxillary bone, piercing it completely (Fig. 1b). None of the teeth described is situated parallel to the sagittal plane, their ends are inclined by 5 mm to the left in relation to the bases.

The left I_1 , 45 mm in length, had injured the gum and rubbed against the right *os intermaxillare* (Fig. 1b), causing its slight deformation. The right I_1 is degenerate, shorter (21 mm) and thinner than the previous tooth, completely devoid of colour. The basal part of the tooth is very fragile and appears to be attacked by decay, and this is probably the cause of the abnormal growth of the other incisors (Mohr, 1950; Peyer, 1963). The right mandible has degenerated considerably, is swollen and the corpus is 2.5 mm shorter than the left (Fig. 2 and 3). Only the molar row and *processus temporalis* and the articular ramus of the mandible are unchanged. Below M_1 and M_2 considerable losses in the bone had resulted in the formation of holes, one of which measured 4 mm \times 2.5 mm on the ventral side, and the other 4 mm \times 1.5 mm on the pericentral side, extending into the interior of the tooth socket and revealing the basal part of the incisor (Fig. 3, Pl. XX, in front of p. 558). The tooth socket is enlarged and deformed.

No changes were found in the skeleton, musculature or internal organs apart from the *viscerocranium*.

Mohr E., 1950: Die freilebenden Nagetiere Deutschlands. G. Fischer: 1—152. Jena. Peyer B., 1963: Die Zähne. Ihr Ursprung, ihre Geschichte und ihre Aufgaben. Springer-Verlag: 1—102. Berlin. Vinogradov B. S. & Gromov I. M., 1952: Gryzuny fauny SSSR. AN SSSR: 1—297. Moskva—Leningrad.

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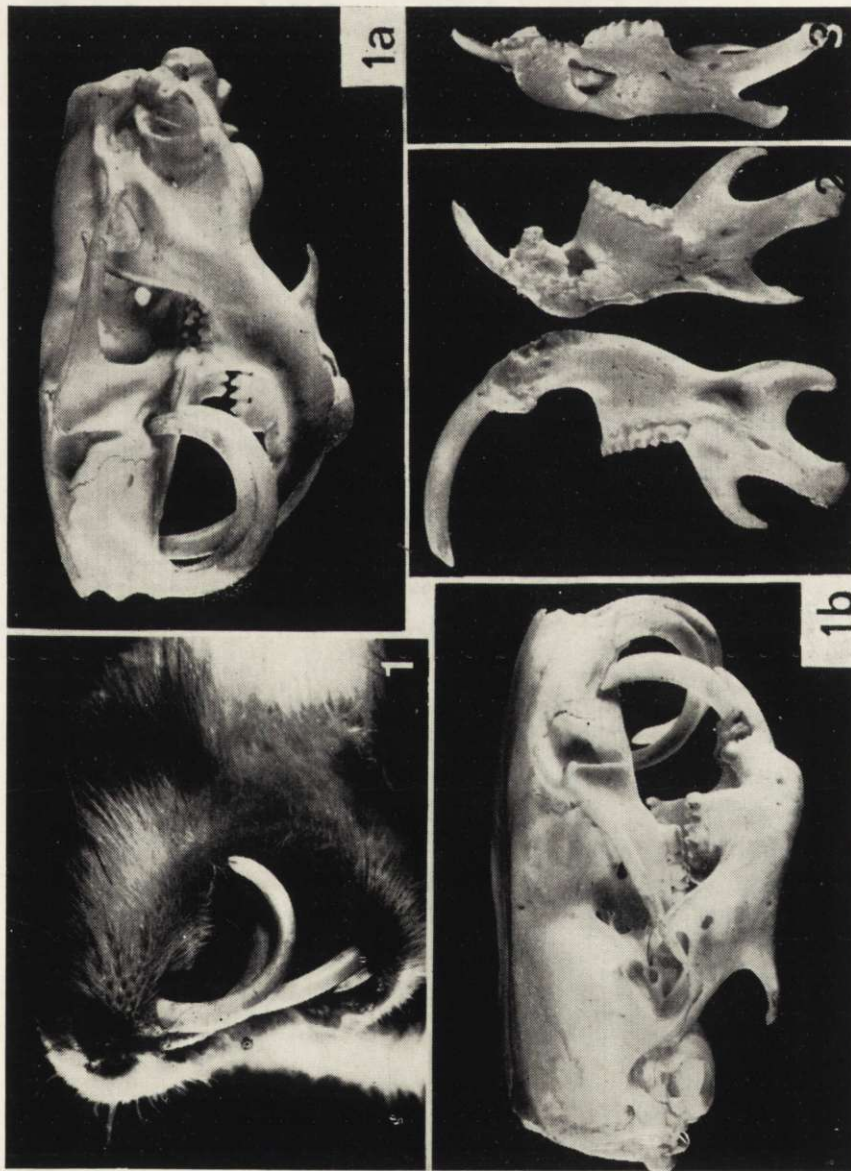


Fig. 1. Skull of hamster with abnormally developed incisors. a — *norma lateralis sinistra*, b — *norma lateralis dextra*. Fig. 2. Mandibles from pericentral side. Fig. 3. Right mandible from ventral side.