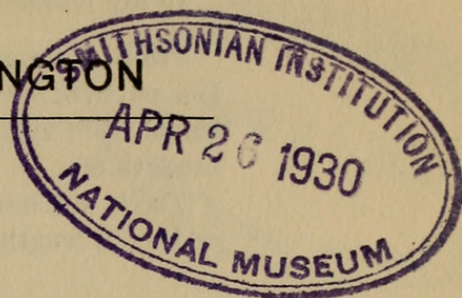


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RANGE OF
URSUS PLANICEPS, A COLORADO GRIZZLY.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

Sixty years ago Dr. F. V. Hayden, when working in the Rocky Mountains, sent the Smithsonian Institution, from what is now the State of Colorado, the skull of a Grizzly bear, but omitted to mention the locality where it was obtained.

In 1918 this specimen was described by me as the type of *Ursus planiceps*.¹ In reference to its probable locality I stated:

“Dr. Hayden worked in Colorado in 1869, mainly in the mountains and foothills of the east-central part of the State. In as much as two other grizzlies, *bairdi* and *macrodon*, inhabit the higher mountains of Colorado it seems highly probable that the home of *planiceps* was in the foothills or along the western edge of the plains.” (Ibid, p. 37 footnote.)

Recently the skull² of a grizzly from Middle Creek (south of Creede) near the head of the Rio Grande in southern Colorado, was sent to the Biological Survey by Charles L. Calar, one of its predatory animal hunters.

It is labeled male, but has every appearance of a female. The sagittal crest is long and low, its posterior half only moderately elevated, and the canines are slender as in females of allied species. The molars also are distinctly small—nearly as small as in the type of *texensis*. Skull in general like *planiceps* the type of which, an old male, came from some unknown locality in Colorado. The Middle Creek skull is small and flattish, with flatly outstanding postorbital processes, flat narrow frontal shield, slightly and evenly sloping naso-frontal region; truncate nares; moderately spreading zygomatica, and nearly flat palate. Rostrum compressed laterally immediately below the nasals; postorbital constriction hardly noticeable (only 66 mm.); frontal shield flat, conspicuously narrower than in *navaho*, thus agreeing with what would be expected in female *planiceps*; mandible similar to that of type of *planiceps* except for smaller size.

¹N. Am. Fauna, No. 41, Review of the Grizzly and Big Brown Bears of North America, pp. 37-38, 1918.

²U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection No. 248537 ♀ ad. (X Catalog No. 25014). Collected October 18, 1927.

In my judgment the skull is that of a fully adult female *Ursus planiceps*.

Cranial measurements.—Condyllo-basal length 298; basilar length of Hensel 278; occipito-nasal length 270; palatal length 142; postpalatal length 138; zygomatic breadth 179; interorbital breadth 63.5; postorbital breadth 66.

Tooth measurements.—Upper molariform series 67; lower molariform series 62; length of incisor series 38.5.



Merriam, C. Hart. 1929. "Additional information on the range of *Ursus planiceps*, a Colorado grizzly." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 42, 171–172.

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