

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PRONGHORN ANTELOPE FROM
LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY E. W. NELSON.

This subspecies is based on a series of twelve specimens, all from the type locality and neighboring district, now in the Biological Survey Collection. Comparisons were made with about an equal series of *mexicana* and an even larger number of *americana* from various parts of the western United States.

***Antilocapra americana peninsularis* subsp. nov.**

Type No. 178,445, adult male, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection, from 45 miles south of Calmalli, Lower California, Mexico; collected February 4, 1912, by E. W. Funcke.

Distribution.—Middle Lower California, south to the head of Ballenas Bay in about 27° north latitude, and north on the west coast to about 29° 30'; on the gulf side to beyond 32°, to the southern end of the Colorado Desert.

Subspecific characters.—Compared with typical *Antilocapra americana* from North Dakota the present form agrees in the dark sooty brown facial markings strongly contrasting with the surrounding white and dark reddish-buff areas (facial area distinctly paler in *mexicana*); ears of *peninsularis* much darker about tips; in typical *americana* as well as in *mexicana*, terminal half of ears bordered with a narrow black line and a few scattered black hairs on outside (back), in *peninsularis* this black border much heavier and terminal third of outside (or back) mainly blackish, the terminal inch commonly nearly pure black; in *americana* rufous area on top of tail extends forward partly dividing white rump patch but usually becoming obsolescent before reaching rufous area on back; in *peninsularis* this rufous band extends forward forming a strongly marked bar about an inch wide from tail to rufous of back thus definitely dividing white rump patch; horns of *peninsularis* shorter and actually as well as proportionately thicker laterally at base than in *americana* or *mexicana*, with the surface, up to prongs, much roughened

and covered with numerous small knobs and wart-like protuberances; horns in this form also average much more upright and less diverging than in either of the other forms; molar series heavier than in *americana* and much heavier than in *mexicana*. Size about the same in all three subspecies.

Remarks.—It was unexpected to find the antelope of the remote and excessively hot arid deserts of Lower California more like typical *americana* in the dark coloring of the head than like the pale *mexicana*. While the differences noted are not very striking they appear sufficient to characterize a good local form. Antelope formerly ranged over nearly the entire length of Lower California but are now gone from a large part of their ancient range and their steadily decreasing numbers indicate their early extinction throughout the peninsula.



Nelson, Edward William. 1912. "A new subspecies of pronghorn antelope from Lower California." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 25, 107–108.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/22880>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/8371>

Holding Institution

MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by

MBLWHOI Library

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>.