

southern Texas, Louisiana and Florida is only from 17.6 to 18.4 mm. This larger animal is *Dasypterus intermedius* (H. Allen), originally described from Matamoras, Tamaulipas. While it is not possible, in the absence of a better series of skins than that now available, to find any appreciable differences between the Yucatan and Chiapas specimens and true *intermedius*, it is evident that the form occurring in Louisiana and Florida (*D. floridanus* Miller) is sufficiently characterized by its shorter forearm and third finger to be regarded as distinct.

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

THE VOLCANO RABBIT OF MOUNT IZTACCIHUATL.*

In the catalog of the objects exhibited by the Mexican "Comisión Geográfico-Exploradora" at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago † Professor Augustin Díaz figures (pl. 42) a rabbit of the genus *Romerolagus*, under the name "Conejo del Volcán (*Lepus diazi* Ferrari-Pérez, sp. nov)." This plate is not mentioned by Merriam in the original description of *Romerolagus nelsoni* ‡ from Mt. Popocatepetl, or by Nelson in his monograph of the Rabbits of North America, § though it is alluded to by an anonymous editorial writer in Natural Science for March, 1897. ||

The validity of the specific name *diazi* is unquestionable under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 25, and Opinion 1). According to the same Code the authority for the name is Díaz, not Ferrari-Pérez, since *Lepus diazi* remained in MS. until the publication of the catalog by Díaz, and no statement is anywhere made that "some other person is responsible for [the publication of] said name and its indication [= illustration]" (Art. 21, and Opinion 4).

Nomenclatorily the case presents no difficulties, but zoologically it has hitherto been obscured by the uncertainty as to whether the "Volcano Rabbit" was identical with *Romerolagus nelsoni*. This doubt has now been removed by the kindness of Professor Ferrari-Pérez, through which I have been enabled to examine the type and a second specimen of *Romerolagus diazi*. Both were taken in Puebla, on the eastern slope of Mt. Iztaccihuatl, a region about fifteen miles from the type-locality of *Romerolagus nelsoni*.

As compared with four skins of *Romerolagus nelsoni* the two specimens of *R. diazi* (both marked female, the type taken in March, 1885) show slightly less black in the grizzle of dorsal surface and slightly more gray on cheeks, characters probably due to the fading usual in mounted spec-

* By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

† Exposición Internacional Columbina de Chicago en 1893 | Comisión Geográfico-Exploradora | de la | República Mexicana | Catálogo | de los objetos que componen el contingente de la Comisión, precidido de algunas notas | sobre su organización y trabajos | por el ingeniero director | Agustín Díaz | Coronel de Estado Mayor Especial, Ex-Profesor en el Colegio Militar y en la | Escuela Especial de Ingenieros | Xalapa-Enríquez. Marzo de 1893 | Tipografía de la Comisión Geográfico-Exploradora. |

‡ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, X, pp. 169-174. December 29, 1896.

§ North American Fauna No. 29. August 31, 1909.

|| X, p. 151.

imens. The skull of the type (that of the other specimen is missing) lacks the mandible and the entire basal part of braincase, though the remaining portion is in fair condition. It has certain peculiarities not shared by any of the five skulls of *R. nelsoni*: the postorbital processes are broader and heavier, the palate is more arched between tooththrows, and the dorsal profile of braincase is less bent downward posteriorly. These cranial characters are, however, quite within the range of normal variation in members of the family. I consequently have no hesitation in regarding the later name *nelsoni* as a synonym of *diazi*. Mr. E. W. Nelson, who examined the specimens with me, is of the same opinion.*

Measurements of the type specimens (those of *R. "nelsoni"* in parenthesis): hind foot, 48.6 (53); ear from crown, 38.6 (37); greatest length of skull, 60.4 (60.6); zygomatic breadth, 29+ (30.4); breadth of braincase, 22.6 (23.4); postorbital constriction, 10.0 (9.8); interorbital constriction 9.8 (10.0); nasal, 24.4+ (24.8); greatest breadth of both nasals together, 9.8 (10.0); diastema, 16.0 (15.8); length of palate (lateral), 7.4 (7.8); width of palate between anterior premolars, 8.0 (7.6); width of palate between posterior molars, 10.4 (10.6); depth at middle of palate, 13.6 (14.0); maxillary tooththrow (alveoli), 11.6 (12.0).

NOTE.—Four specimens (Nos. 174531–4) collected at Textlananquila on Mount Iztaccihuatl, above Amecameca, and presented to the U. S. National Museum by Professor Ferrari-Pérez, arrived in Washington after this article was in type. They entirely confirm the identity of *Romerolagus diazi* and *R. "nelsoni"*.

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

* In view of Mr. Nelson's personal acquaintance with the region where the two types were collected I requested him to give me a brief account of the geography. This he has kindly done as follows: "The total area occupied by *Romerolagus* appears to be limited to the middle slopes of the volcanos Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl. The boundary line between the states of Mexico and Puebla runs along the crests of these mountains in a northerly and southerly course, thus placing the western slopes in Mexico and the eastern ones in Puebla. These mountains are joined by a broad ridge about 12,000 feet high, at each end of which rise the high peaks. The middle slopes, where *Romerolagus* lives, are continuous around both mountains and lie in an area 20 miles long, in a north and south direction, and ten miles broad, from east to west. *Romerolagus* lives permanently only where it has the shelter of the coarse saccaton grass and the areas occupied by this plant are broken by hot slopes on which it can not maintain itself. These breaks are not wide and can be readily crossed by small mammals. The extremely limited area which *Romerolagus* occupies, and the absolute identity of climatic and other physical conditions within it, appear to preclude the possibility of the existence of more than one local form."



Miller, Gerrit S. 1911. "The Volcano rabbit of Mount Iztaccihuatl." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 24, 228-229.

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