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## RANGIFER DAWSONI.

### PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CARIBOU FROM QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLANDS.

BY ERNEST SETON-THOMPSON.

In August, 1899, while at Ottawa, Canada, my attention was called by Dr. G. M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, to the fact that Caribou exist on the northernmost and largest island of the Queen Charlotte group, and later, on my asking for fuller details, he wrote me as follows :

“When engaged in geologically surveying the Queen Charlotte Islands in the summer of 1878, I heard of this animal but did not see it, and from Indian accounts came to the conclusion it was the Wapiti, which as you know occurs on Vancouver Island. In my report for 1878-79, p. 113 B, I therefore referred to it as follows : ‘There is pretty good evidence to show that the Wapiti occurs on the northern part of Graham, but it is very seldom killed. The small Deer (*C. columbianus*) is not found on the islands, nor is the Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Sheep or Mountain Goat.’

“At a later date I ascertained that the animal in question was not the Wapiti but the Caribou, from Mr. Charles, formerly connected with the Hudson's Bay Co. in Victoria. He had a skin of the animal, imperfect, but with horns and hoofs sufficient to show its general character.

“The only published reference I have made to the occurrence, that I can remember, is in a paper on the Later Physiographical Geology of the Rocky Mountain Region in Canada. Trans. Royal



Society of Canada, Vol. VIII, Section IV, 1890, pp. 51-52. This is as follows :

“ ‘One further circumstance may, in conclusion, be referred to here as being readily and intelligibly explicable on the hypothesis of a considerable elevation of the land at about this time, (close of the glacial period.) This is the existence at the present day of Caribou in the northern part of Queen Charlotte Islands.

“ In a former report on these islands I have spoken of the occurrence of the Elk or Wapiti on them. This statement was, however, based merely on Indian report, as none of the animals in question were seen. Since that time I have learned from Mr. W. Charles, that the animal in question is really the Caribou, and I have been shown by him the skin and antlers of one of these animals. The Caribou is not now found anywhere else in the region of the coast, either on the islands or on the Coast Ranges, though it roams over high plateaux to the east of these ranges. The shortest distance between any point of the Queen Charlotte Islands and the nearest islands of the Coast Archipelago is thirty miles, and the intervening strait is subject to rapid tidal currents. The isolation of the Queen Charlotte Islands is in fact so complete that the Deer, which inhabits all the other islands of the coast, is not found in this group.

“It is, therefore, in the absence of the Caribou from the neighboring coast and its adjacent islands, and in consideration of the width of the waterway which would have to be crossed, at least highly probable that this animal reached the Queen Charlotte Islands under the present conditions. I am thus led to believe that the Caribou colonized the islands at a time at which either the glaciers extending from the mainland attained to the Queen Charlotte Islands, or by a land connection during a period of greater elevation.\* The latter is in every way the more probable supposition, and, if it be entertained, it may further be assumed that the animal came to the islands at the date of the immediately post-glacial elevation above indicated, and that it has since, as an isolated colony, succeeded in maintaining itself there.

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\* This minimum amount of elevation required would be about 200 feet above the present level,



“The Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands have evidently long employed the antlers of the native Caribou for the manufacture of various implements, clubs, etc., as some of the oldest of these in our collections are of that material, which was evidently prized. These Indians are not great hunters and in fact dislike going into the interior of this island and on the higher ground where the small bands of Caribou occur.

“You will notice from my remarks above quoted that these animals must in all probability have been a long time entirely separated from any others, and I should think it highly probable with an animal so variable as the Caribou that they may have developed considerable peculiarities.”

A fortnight later I was in Victoria, Vancouver Id., and had an interview with Mr. W. Charles, at his home on Fort St. Mr. Charles was Hudson Bay Co.'s factor at Victoria for years, and the Queen Charlotte Islands came within his official district. He informed me that while visiting at Masset in the north end of Graham Island, he several times heard reports that Caribou were found on the island. But the Indians never brought any in, for they have a superstitious dread of the interior and of the west coast, where the Caribou are found. They believe that if they go there they will be devoured by some fabulous monster that comes up from the sea. At best they are poor hunters, and rarely think about the chase when they can get a meal of fish. One day in 1882 (?) when Mr. Charles went as far as the west slope of the mountains on the Pacific side he noticed a great extent of beautiful level upland pastures, and remarked that if there are any Caribou on this island this is the place to look for them. Accordingly Mr. Alex. Mackenzie, an ex-employee of the Hudson's Bay Co., set out with some Siwash Indians and found near the place a large herd of Caribou, and opened fire on them. The first to fall had only one horn. They brought its skin and skull to Mr. Charles, who states that the skin was of a mouse colour and the animal too small for the Woodland Caribou, and too dark to be the arctic species. He is of the opinion that it is closely related to the Barren Ground Caribou. The skin was destroyed, but the fragmentary skull with its one horn was deposited in the Provincial Museum of Victoria, B.C.



Dr. Dawson has called my attention to the following passage in Mackenzie's "Notes on Certain Implements and Weapons of Graham Island. (Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, Sec. II, 1891, p. 50.

"*Reindeer antler Tomahawk* (Haida, *Scoots-hlth-at-low*.) [No. 1302]—This very ancient and interesting relic is made from one of a species of Reindeer which inhabits the mountainous interior of Graham Island. In ancient times these Reindeer were hunted by the Haida and killed by bow and arrow, being highly prized both for meat and skin. [See Marchand's Voyage, Chap. V, 1791.] This weapon was the property of the Masset doctor, or medicine man, who is still alive but aged. To him it was bequeathed by his predecessor who died many years ago. . . . . It is undoubtedly a relic of the times before these natives had intercourse with white men."

Through the courtesy of Mr. John Fannin I have had the opportunity of making a thorough examination of the skull in question and am convinced that the animal is entitled to formal recognition. I propose therefore to name it in honour of Dr. G. M. Dawson of the Canadian Geological Survey, the eminent explorer of the Queen Charlotte Islands, who first called the attention of the scientific world to the existence of the animal.

#### RANGIFER DAWSONI, *Sp. nov.*

*Sp. character.*—Its small size, about that of *Rangifer arcticus*, and its color, which is darker than that of *arcticus*, but much lighter than that of *montanus* from the interior of British Columbia.

*Habitat.*—Queen Charlotte Islands. The type being from the interior of Graham, which is the northmost large island of the group.

The nearest point on the mainland where Caribou are found is 150 miles away in the interior of British Columbia.

This individual was peculiar in having but one horn, but this is merely an accident and is probably the reason that the specimen was brought in by the hunters.

The following measurements will be of use in conjunction with the figures :

In figure 1, the length of the antler from below the burr following the outer curve to the top of the highest point,  $28\frac{3}{4}$  inches



(730 mm.); girth of antler at base above the burr,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches (120 mm.).

In figures 2, length from the point of the occiput A to the posterior point of the nasal bones B,  $6\frac{9}{16}$  inches (166 mm.); greatest width across the orbits C. D. 6 inches, (153 mm.).

My thanks are due to Dr. J. A. Allen, of the American Museum, for the opportunity to compare its skull with that of its giant relative *Rangifer montanus*.

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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CALCAREOUS SPONGE FROM VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.

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BY LAWRENCE M. LAMBE, F. G. S.

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### LEUCANDRA TAYLORI. (*Sp. nov.*)

Sponge small, solitary, sessile, nearly spherical, terminating above in a well developed oscular fringe. Surface hispid, owing to the presence of projecting, stout oxea. The three specimens representing this species are of about the same size and shape, the one figured (figs. *a* and *b*) measuring 4.5 mm. in breadth and about 6 mm. in height, including the oscular fringe, which has a length of a little over 1 mm.

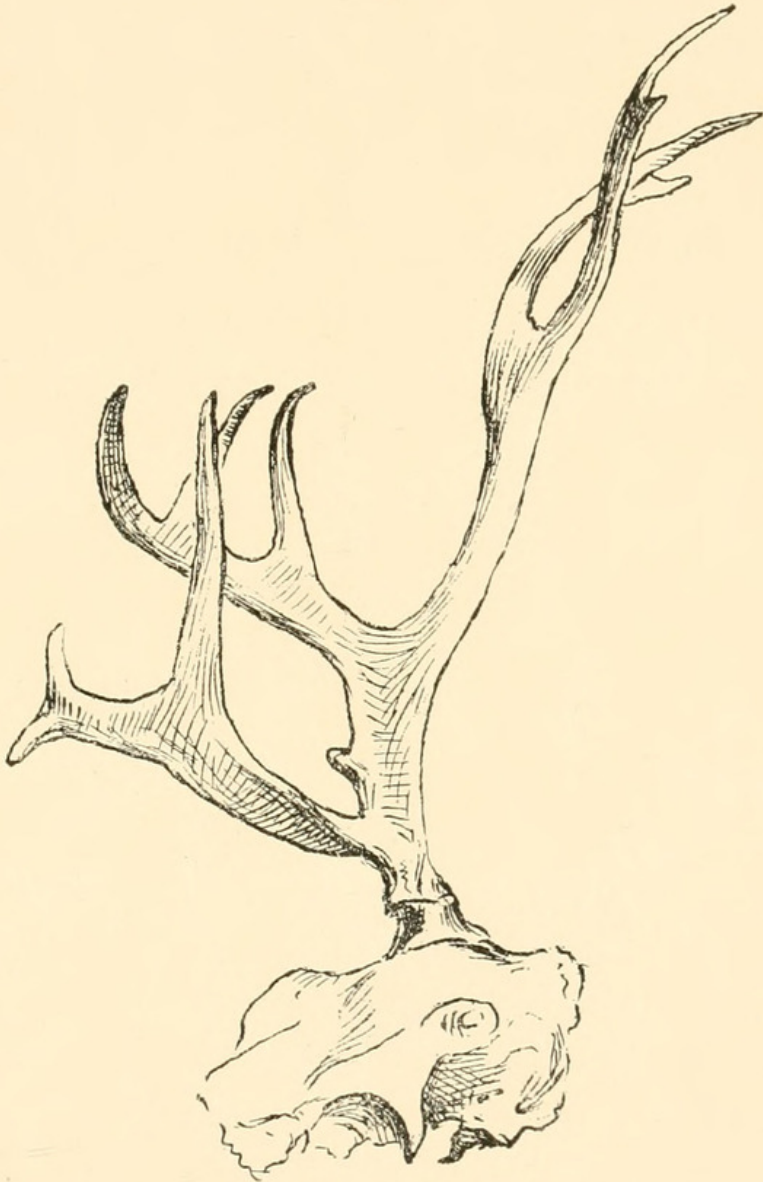
The walls of the sponge are thick and the gastral cavity is cylindrical and narrow, being slightly less than 1 mm. in width. The inhalent pores are scattered on the dermal surface and the flagellated chambers (*f c*, fig. *c*) are small, averaging about .06 mm. in width, rounded and disposed irregularly in the wall. The exhalent canals leading into the gastral cavity have not been satisfactorily seen.

*Skeleton*.—The skeleton consists of triradiate spicules of the parenchyma, of gastral triradiate, of dermal triradiate and large oxeote spicules, of slender, linear, dermal spicules and slender oxeote spicules of the oscular fringe.

1. *Triradiate spicules of the parenchyma*.—Slightly sagittal; the basal ray straight, up to about .117 mm. long, the



Fig. 1.



RANGIFER DAWSONI (Thompson.)

Fig. 3.

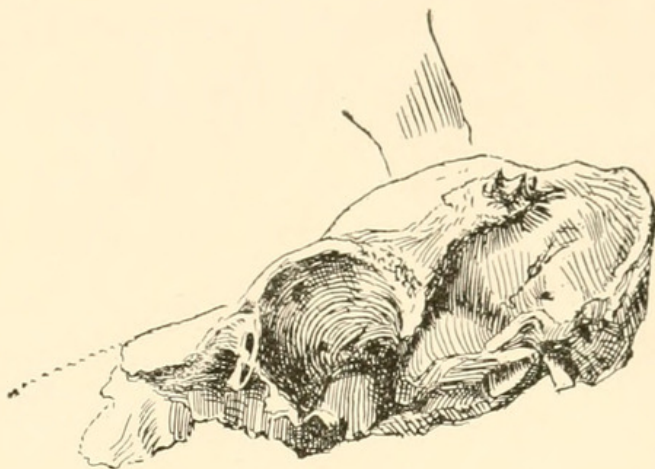
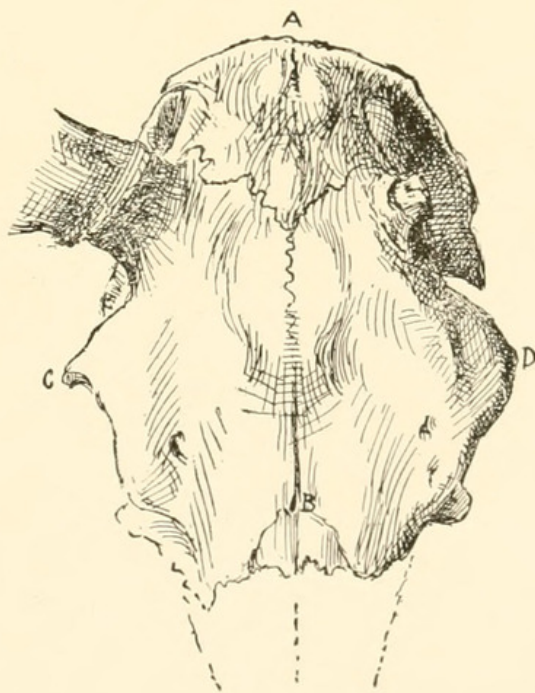


Fig. 2.



RANGIFER DAWSONI (Thompson.)



Seton, Ernest Thompson. 1900. "Rangifer Dawsoni, preliminary description of a new Caribou from Queen Charlotte's Islands." *The Ottawa naturalist* 13(11), 257–261.

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