

Short communication Courte note

J. Afr. Zool. 105 (1991)

Female caracal (*Felis caracal*) lacking lower incisors *canines.*

Chris T. STUART

An occurrence of a female caracal lacking lower canines is recorded.

Un cas de chacal femelle sans canine inférieure est signalé.

C.T. Stuart, African Carnivore Survey, P.O. Box 96, Nieuwoudtville 8180, South Africa.

During the course of a detailed study of the caracal (*Felis caracal*) a sample of 754 adult skulls was collected, of which 430 were male and 324 female. The entire sample was collected in the Cape Province, South Africa, to the south of the Orange River.

Only one gross dental abnormality was noted, an approximately three year old female (Stuart & Stuart, 1985) was found to be lacking lower canines (see Plate). Examination of the mandible revealed no injury to the bone and X-rays showed that no vestigial canines, or cavities, were present. Despite the lack of lower canines the animal was in good physical condition and the body measurements fell within the average for the species (Stuart, 1981; Stuart, 1982)

The specimen is lodged in the Albany Museum (AMSA 4573), Grahamstown collection.

REFERENCES

- Stuart, C. T. 1981. Notes on the mammalian carnivores of the Cape Province, South Africa. *Bontebok*, 1 : 1-58.
- Stuart, C. T. 1982. *Aspects of the ecology of Felis caracal in the Cape Province, South Africa*. M. Sc. Thesis, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.
- Stuart, C. T. & Stuart, T. D. 1985. Age determination and development of foetal and juvenile *Felis caracal* Schreber, 1776. *Saugetierkundl. Mitt.* 32 : 217-229.

(Manuscript received 2 October 1990, accepted 5 January 1991)

