

**Abnormal dental Development in male Hyrax, *Procavia capensis capensis*
(Hyracoidea: Procaviidae).**

STUART, C. T. (1984): Abnormal dental Development in male Hyrax; *Procavia capensis capensis* (Hyracoidea: Procaviidae). – Säugetierkundl. Mitt. 31: 268–269.

The incidence of abnormal incisor growth in a sample of *P. capensis capensis* from the Cape Province is recorded and illustrated. Only males exhibited incisor overgrowth, and these animals were assessed as being beyond prime, and their mean skull size was markedly greater than those with normal incisors.

Adresse: Chris T. Stuart, Albany Museum, Somerset Street, Grahamstown 6140, Republic of South Africa.

The incidence of overgrowth of incisor teeth in the Rodentia and Lagomorpha has been frequently noted. HARRISON (1982) has recorded it for the first time in a hyracoid, an adult male *Procavia capensis jayakari* Thomas, 1892, collected in Saudi Arabia. The skull was found to have gross overgrowth of the left upper incisor, forming a semi-circular curve which terminated just below the anterior border of pm⁴.

During the course of an ongoing mammal survey of the Cape Province, South Africa, a large number of hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) skulls were examined. Material is housed in the J. Ellerman Museum, Stellenbosch; Albany Museum, Grahamstown and the Kaffrarian Museum, King William's Town.

Of the 291 female *P. capensis* skulls examined none exhibited upper incisor abnormalities, but of the 244 male hyrax skulls 12 had gross upper incisor overgrowth. The entire sample was collected on the western escarpment of the Cape Province. An additional three skulls housed in the Albany Museum collection exhibit upper incisor overgrowth.

In all 15 cases where skulls had upper incisor abnormalities molar and premolar wear indicated that the animals were beyond their prime. It is of interest that the mean skull size of these animals is markedly greater than those with normal incisors (see Table). Figures 1 to 3 illustrate examples from the sample discussed.

The material was collected whilst the author was in the employ of the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Cape Province.

| | GREATEST SKULL LENGTH (mm) | | | UPPER INCISOR LENGTH (mm) | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | n | \bar{x} | range | n | \bar{x} | range |
| Normal male Hyrax skulls | 232 | 79,0 | 72,0–88,0 | 232 | 15,5 | 11,0–20,0 |
| Abnormal male Hyrax skulls | 12 | 89,8 | 81,0–98,0 | 12 | 26,6 | 22,0–46,0 |

Tab. 1: The upper incisor length beyond the gum-line of male *Procavia capensis* exhibiting abnormal growth, as well as greatest skull length. The mean upper incisor length and greatest skull length of normal adult male hyrax are also given.

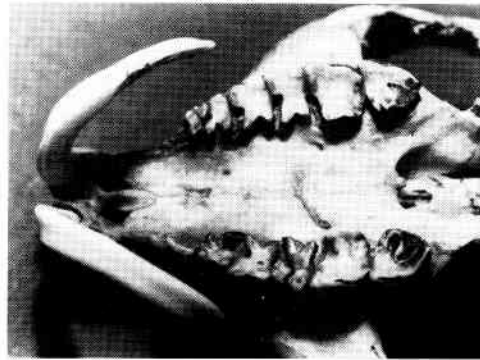
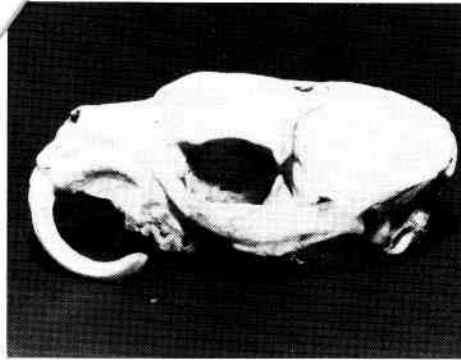


Fig. 1 a & b (AMSA/M 1154): Incisors particularly long, having executed a "ramshorn curl" outside the mouth.

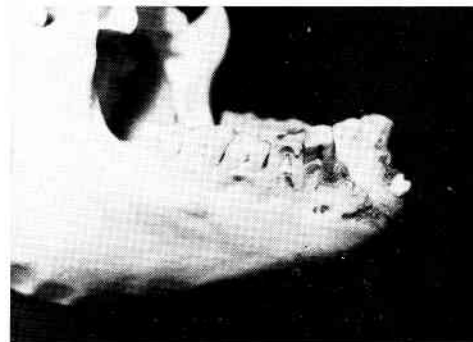
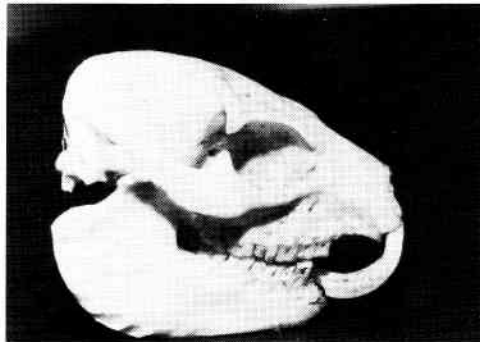


Fig. 2 a & b (AMSA/M 4436): Left hand incisor 5 mm longer than the right, with both having entered the mouth cavity. Incisors (lower) 2,3 completely worn away, with 1,4 worn to the gums. Tips of upper incisors blunted.



Fig. 3 (AMSA/M 4438): A single upper incisor, having executed an almost complete circle, with the tip almost in contact with the apical foramen. This single tooth was picked up in a rock crevice.

Literature

HARRISON, D. L. (1982): An unusual dental anomaly in the Arabian Hyrax, *Procavia capensis jayakari* (Hyracoida: Procaviidae). *Mammalia* 46 (3):395-396.