

# GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MALE WATER MONGOOSE, *ATILAX PALUDINOSUS*

By C.T. STUART

No records of growth and development of *Atilax paludinosus* are known to the author and this note documents these aspects in one animal.

A male Water Mongoose born in captivity, (to a female trapped on the north bank of the Breede River at Robertson (3319DD), on 6 September 1978), was measured and observed until it achieved adult size. Until weaned it suckled from the mother, and then given a diet of chopped horsemeat, chicken, guinea pigs and rabbits.

Mass and head and body length increases, as well as the most important development stages, are presented in the accompanying figure.

Full growth was reached at approximately thirty six weeks, with the levelling off of body mass and body measurements. The permanent canines are also fully emerged at this stage. The daily mass gain was calculated at 10,5g, with a birth mass of 120g.

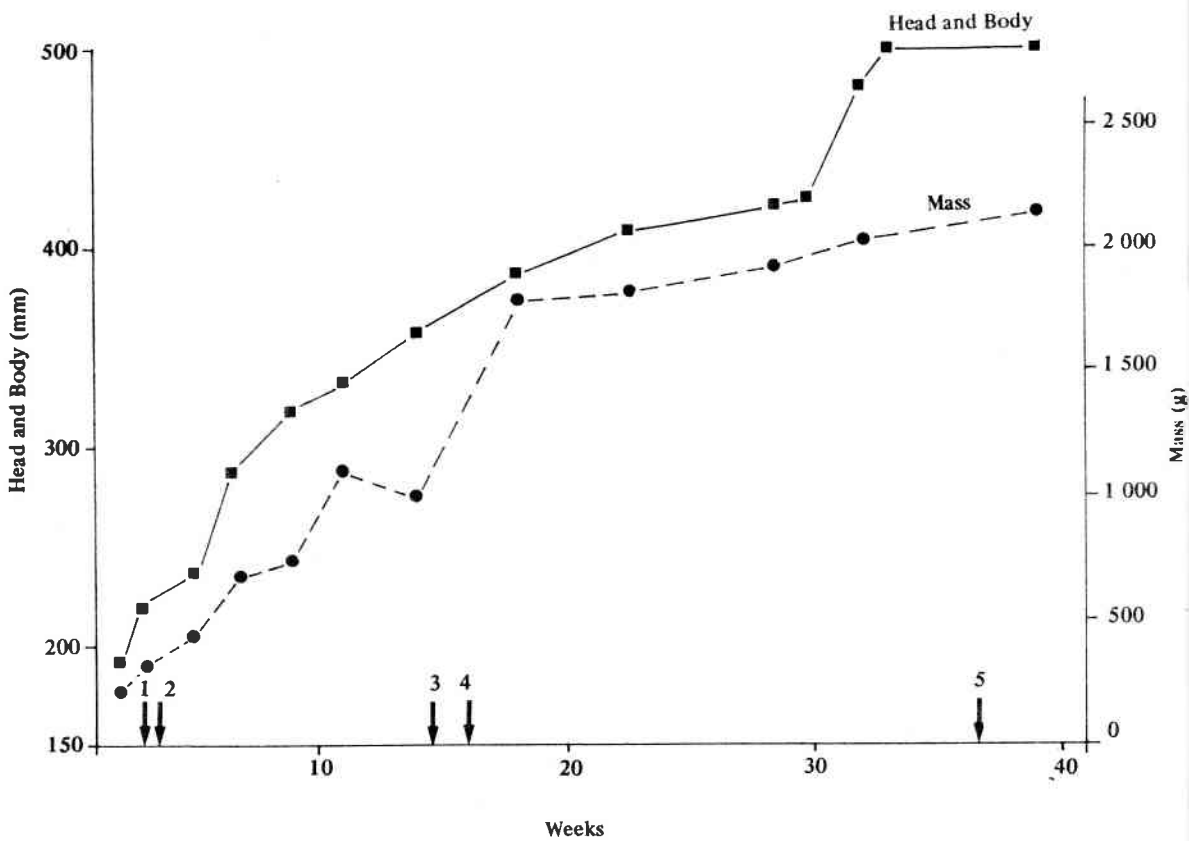


Fig. Mass increase (g) and head and body length increase (mm) of a captive born, male, *Atilax paludinosus*. Key to the time intervals indicated by arrows and numbered 1 to 5.  
 1 — Eyes open for the first time; 2 — Deciduous canines break through the gums; 3 — Weaned; 4 — Killed first guinea-pig; 5 — Permanent canines fully emerged (first broke through the gums at 32 weeks).

The Bu  
is restricte  
forest or b  
this wild p

Materia  
trol operat  
bution of  
possible lo  
pig seems  
J.P. Wilson  
bos (Heide  
within the  
tract) agric  
order to in  
readily int  
forest in th  
pig popula

A total o  
1. Seven o  
There a  
mation for  
is presente  
back-dated

Litter si  
April 470-5

The me  
a mean lit  
current stu

The boc  
during cor  
J. Bruw  
thanked fo

References

Phillips, J.F.  
S.Afr.J.Sci  
Smithers, R.  
Rhodesia.  
Sowls, L.K.  
in Rhodes

C.T. STUART