

Article XIII.—A NEW BEAR FROM THE ALASKA PENINSULA.

By J. A. ALLEN.

PLATES XXX AND XXXI.

Another¹ interesting and unexpected addition to the mammalian fauna of the Alaska Peninsula, obtained by the Andrew J. Stone Expedition, is a new species of large bear, represented by a skin and skull obtained by Mr. Stone at Portage Bay, opposite Port Müller, Alaska Peninsula.

This bear is of special interest not only on account of its large size, but also on account of the cranial differences it presents in comparison with the bears of the Kenai Peninsula and Kadiak Island. The skull and skin belong to different individuals, the skin being that of (probably) a very old male, and the skull that of a full-grown but not aged adult. In recognition of Dr. C. Hart Merriam's excellent revision of the North American Bears² this species may appropriately bear the name

***Ursus merriami*, sp. nov.**

Type.—No. 17622, skull ♂ ? adult, but not old, Portage Bay, opposite Port Müller, Alaska Peninsula, 1901; Andrew J. Stone Expedition.

Topotype.—No. 17621, skin, ♂ ? adult, Portage Bay, Alaska, May, 1901; Andrew J. Stone Expedition.

Head yellowish brown, with a broad dark brown median band running forward from the nape as far as the eyes; cheeks and throat dull dark brown with a cast of reddish; whole dorsal region dark brown with the tips of the hairs light, resulting in a yellowish gray surface tint, which is lightest over the shoulders and darker posteriorly and on the sides; lower part of flanks, whole ventral surface, and the limbs dark ruddy brown, much darker than the upper surface of the body.

Measurements.—The external measurements available are only such as can be obtained from the flat skin, as follows: length from nose to tail, 3050 mm.; from tip to tip of outstretched fore limbs, 3230; from

¹ See this Bulletin, Vol. XVI, Art. X, pp. 119-127, March, 1902.

² 'Preliminary Synopsis of the American Bears.' Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. X, pp. 65-83, pls. iv-vi, April 13, 1896.

tip to tip of outstretched hind limbs, 2645. Longest fore claw, from base to tip in a straight line, 70; chord of arc, lower surface of claw, 57; transverse diameter at base, 14; antero-posterior diameter at base, 27. Longest hind claw, 33; transverse diameter at base, 10; antero-posterior diameter at base, 21. The claws are much longer, less curved, and much stouter than in the Alaskan Grizzly.

Skull.—Long and narrow, with moderately expanded zygomatic arches, and comparatively low and not greatly expanded forehead. In fact, the skull, seen only from above, might almost be referred to the Polar Bear group. It consequently follows that it is in strong contrast as regards its general contour with the broad, relatively short, high skull of *Ursus middendorffi* and allied forms.

Greatest length (front of premaxillary to end of occipital crest), 395 mm.; basal length (inner base of incisors to posterior border of condyles), 380; occipito-sphenoid length, 100; postpalatal length, 150; zygomatic breadth, 209; interorbital breadth, 81; breadth at post-orbital processes, 110; length of nasals, 108; palatal length, 186; palatal breadth, 51; occipito-nasal length, 330; length of upper molar-premolar series, 114; length of lower jaw, 260; height of coronoid, 114; length of lower molar-premolar series, 132.

Ursus merriami seems most nearly allied to *U. dalli* Merriam, from Yakutat Bay, the skull being long and narrow with the interorbital region only slightly elevated and not greatly expanded, in this respect differing greatly from *U. middendorffi* of Kadiak Island and the eastern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. The palatal region, however, is longer and one fifth narrower than in *U. dalli*,¹ from which it differs so much, and in so many important details that further comparison of the two forms is necessary.

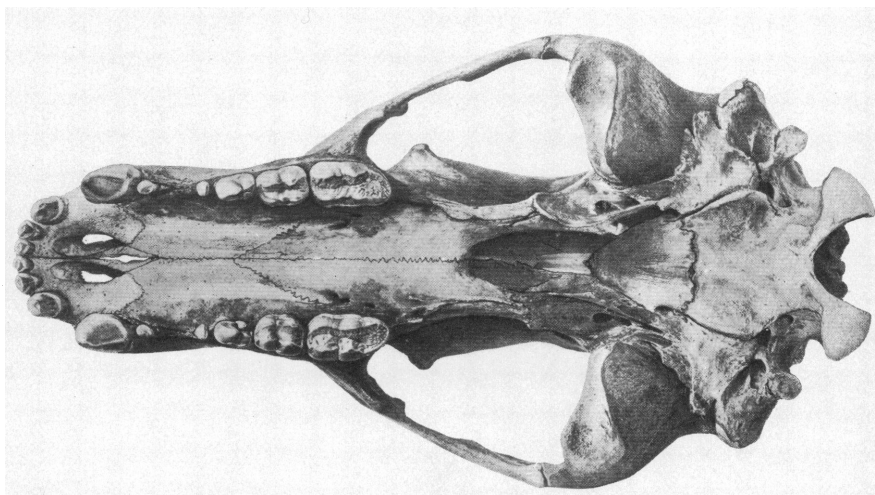
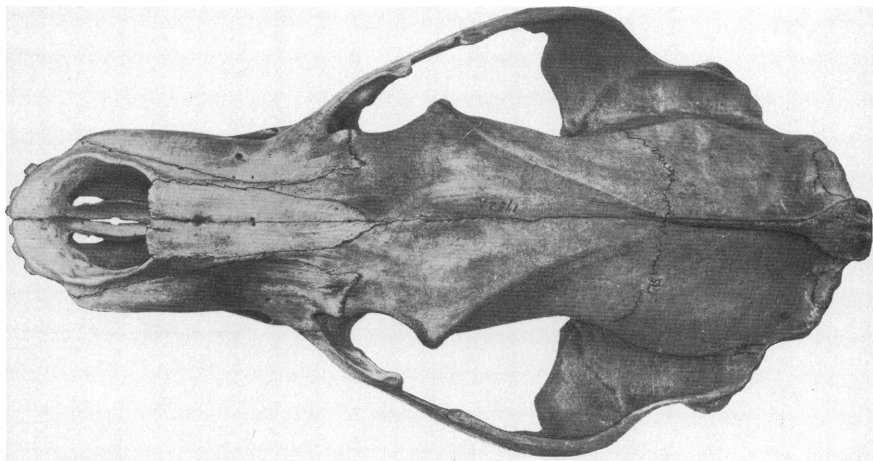
Since preparing the foregoing paper and the illustrations accompanying it, I have received a paper from Dr. Merriam entitled 'Two New Bears from the Alaska Peninsula,'² in which he describes a bear from Pavlof Bay under the name *Ursus dalli gyas*. This is probably the nearest ally of *Ursus merriami* yet described, but the description of the skull is brief and incomplete, and does not, in several important points,

¹ For comparison in the present connection Dr. Merriam has kindly loaned me a skull of *Ursus dalli* (No. 75047, from "near Mt. St. Elias"), figured in pl. vi, fig. 5, of his paper already cited—a very old specimen with much worn teeth.

² Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XV, pp. 77-79, March 22, 1902.

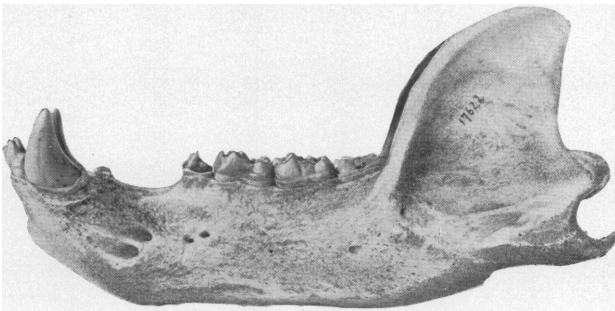
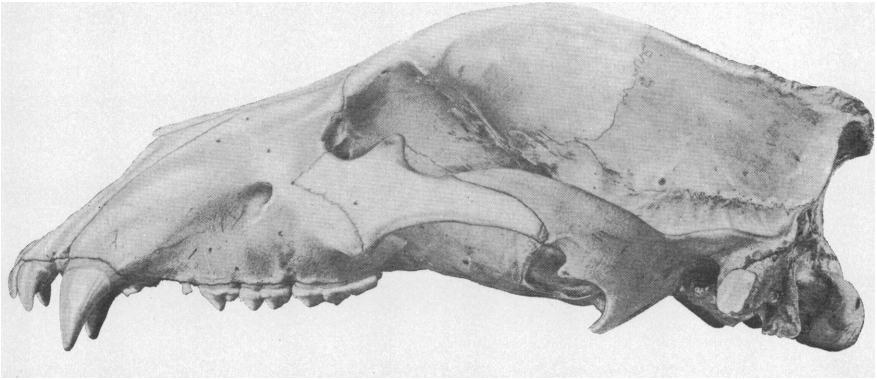
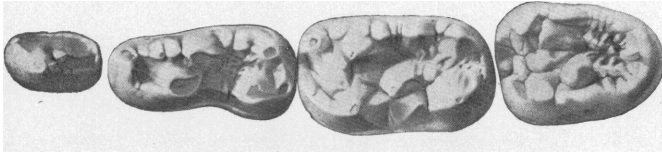
agree well with the skull of *U. merriami*. It seems to indicate a wholly different type of animal, especially in having the skull "much larger, heavier and more massive" than in *U. dalli*, with the cranium higher and more vaulted, features just the opposite of those presented by *U. merriami*. Neither does the brief description of the teeth accord well with the dentition of *U. merriami*. (See Plates xxx and xxxi.)

The locality of Mr. Stone's specimens is Portage Bay, on the Alaska Peninsula, opposite the Shumagin Islands, some 600 to 700 miles west of the type locality of *Ursus dalli gyas*, and in a very different faunal area.



URSUS MERRIAMI, SP. NOV.

$\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.



URSUS MERRIAMI, SP. NOV.

Skull and lower jaw $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size teeth (lower molar series) slightly less than nat. size.

