

## VI. A NEW RACE OF HARE FROM THE PERSIAN FRONTIER OF MESOPOTAMIA.

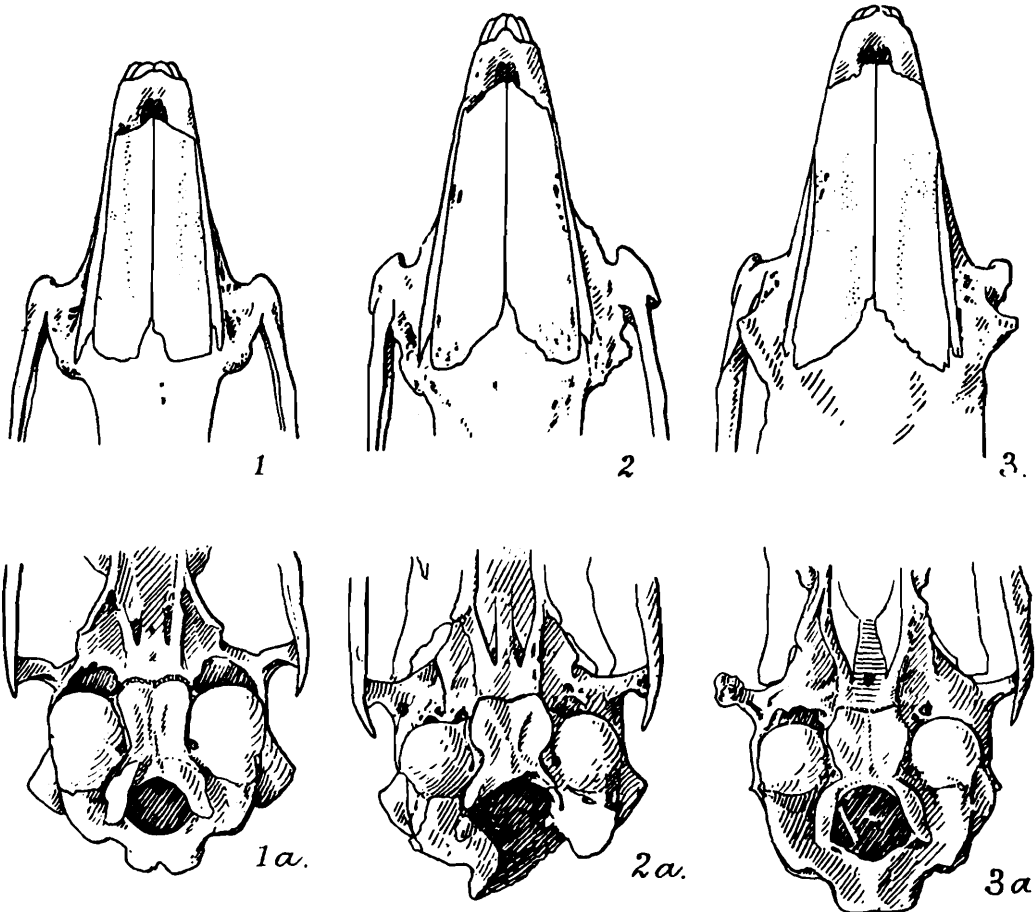
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### *Lepus dayanus connori*, subsp. nov.

*Lepus craspedotis*, Thomas (nec Blanford), *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1905 (2), p. 527.

*Co-types*:—Adult male skin without skull and adult skull unsexed, between Ahwaz and Mohammerah, Karun R., Persia, collected on October 30th, 1917, by Lt.-Col. F. P. Connor, I.M.S. Ind. Mus. Nos. 10278 (skin); 10279 (skull).

A form belonging to the section *dayanus*<sup>1</sup> with long broad ears and soft pelage. Larger than *L. d. craspedotis*<sup>2</sup> from Baluchistan (type



FIGS. 1, 1a.—Nasal bones and auditory bullae of *Lepus dayanus* Blanford, from Narra, Sind.

FIGS. 2, 2a.—Same bones of type of *Lepus dayanus craspedotis*, Blanford, from Pishin, Persian Baluchistan.

FIGS. 3, 3a.—Same bones of co-type of *Lepus dayanus connori*, nov., from Karun R., S. W. Persia.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1874, p. 633; type from Sukkur, Sind.

<sup>2</sup> Blanford, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (4) XVI, p. 313 (1875); *id.*, *Zool. East. Persia*, II, p. 80, pl. viii (1875); type from Pishin, S. Baluchistan, examined.

examined). Nasals decidedly broader than in *L. d. dayanus*, much produced posteriorly on their outer margins, not truncate as in *L. d. craspedotis*.

*Colouration*.—Upper surface very pale salmon-buff, the hairs of the back and upper flanks usually with short black tips. Base of the fur pale smoky-grey, lighter on the flanks, succeeded by a broad clearly defined band of black, most pronounced on the back, and then by a salmon-buff subterminal band and a short black tip, often absent. Chest and nape and anterior flanks pale isabelline-buff, the hind limbs more salmon-buff. Chin, inner surface of limbs and under surface of tail pure white. Upper surface of tail deep clear black.

*Ears*: external half of upper surface clad with fine salmon-buff hair, slightly intermixed with black, the proximal two-thirds of the upper edge fringed with coarse yellowish-buff hairs finely edged with black at the tips; internal half of upper surface almost pure silvery-white with a large patch of black at the tip; this patch edged with buff, the remainder with pure white. Ears internally thinly clad with buffy-white, deeper in tint towards the tips.

*Measurements*.—Hindfoot (dry) 120 mm.; ear 110 mm.

*Skull*.—Larger than that of *L. d. craspedotis* or than an equally aged skull of *L. d. dayanus*. Palatal foramina longer and relatively narrower than in either of the allied forms; nasals broad and parallel-sided, much produced posteriorly on their outer margins; cranial region broad. Teeth as in *L. d. dayanus*. Bullae slightly smaller than in *L. d. dayanus*, very much smaller than in *L. d. craspedotis*.

Measurements of the typical skull: greatest length 87 (81·2)<sup>1</sup>; basal length 67 (63·5); greatest length of nasals 39 (31); palatal foramina 23 (20); upper molar series (alveolar) 16 (14·5).

*Remarks*.—The affinities of this hare, so far as can be judged from descriptions and from the available specimens in the Indian Museum, are almost certainly with the Indian races, of which *L. dayanus* is the best known, rather than with Palaearctic forms. It does not seem in any way connected with forms from Arabia proper and from Muscat, which have been described by Hemprich and Ehrenburg and by Thomas.

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<sup>1</sup> Measurements in parentheses are those of the type of *L. d. craspedotis*.