

# INCISOR MALOCCLUSION IN A SPECIMEN OF SYLVILAGUS FLORIDANUS MEARNsii (MAMMALIA, LAGOMORPHA) FROM ILLINOIS

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Overgrowth of incisors or malocclusion has been reported in wild lagomorphs on only two occasions. Gregory (1952) reported an incidence of hypertrophism in a wild specimen *Sylvilagus floridanus mallurus*, in which the left lower incisor extended nearly three centimeters beyond the end of the jaw, curving abruptly upward in front of the snout.

Woodyard (1981) described a malocclusion in which the lower left incisor extended 1.8 cm beyond the mandible, while the lower right incisor extended 2.5 cm beyond the mandible and curved to the left.

A female (NUVC 5227), Fig. 1-2, *Sylvilagus floridanus mearnsii* having been caught by a feral house cat, *Felis catus* in East Dundee, Kane County, Illinois, was brought to my attention by Mrs. Vera Shumilak. At the time of capture on 6 June 1983, the specimen was gravid, containing five near term embryos, and appeared in healthy condition, suggesting that it was able to obtain nutrition for normal growth despite its inability to use its incisors. The lower left incisor extended 3.6 cm beyond the mandible. The lower right incisor extended 0.3 cm beyond the mandible, but had been broken off prior to capture. The tip of the left incisor was rounded and smooth, while the tip of the right incisor was jagged. Both incisors appeared to be correctly positioned relative to the symphysis of the mandibles.

The upper left incisor extended 1.3 cm from the premaxillary and had grown into a short arc. The smaller incisor was nearly of equal length and in correct lateral position to the larger one. The upper right first incisor extended 1.4 cm from the premaxillary and had grown in an arc of approximately 180 degrees, offset 0.6 cm to the right of the premaxillary symphysis. The smaller incisor extended 0.6 cm from the premaxillary and was in normal position.

The premolars and molars appeared normal. There were no indications of any fractured or malformed bones.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Gregory, Joseph T. 1953. Incisor Malocclusion in a Cottontail Rabbit. *Jour. Mammal.* 34(3):393-4.  
Woodyard, Gary W. 1981. Incisor Malocclusion in a specimen of *Sylvilagus floridanus* (Mammalia: Lagomorpha) from North Carolina, *Brimleyana* 7:151-153. Fig. 1.

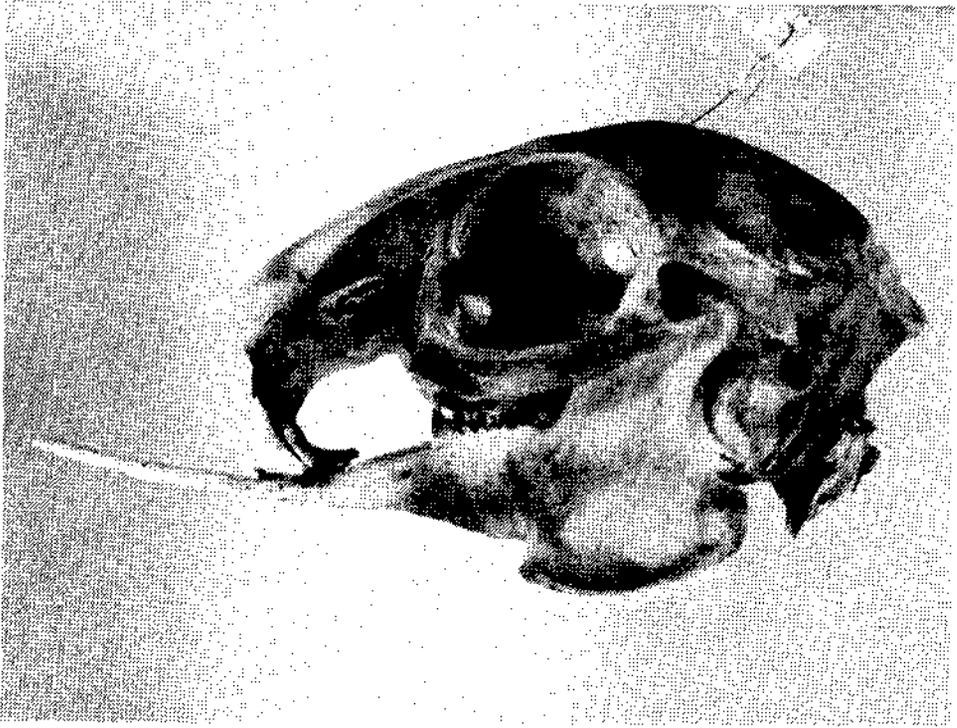


Fig. 1. Left lateral view of skull and mandible showing extreme development of upper and lower incisors. 2x natural size.

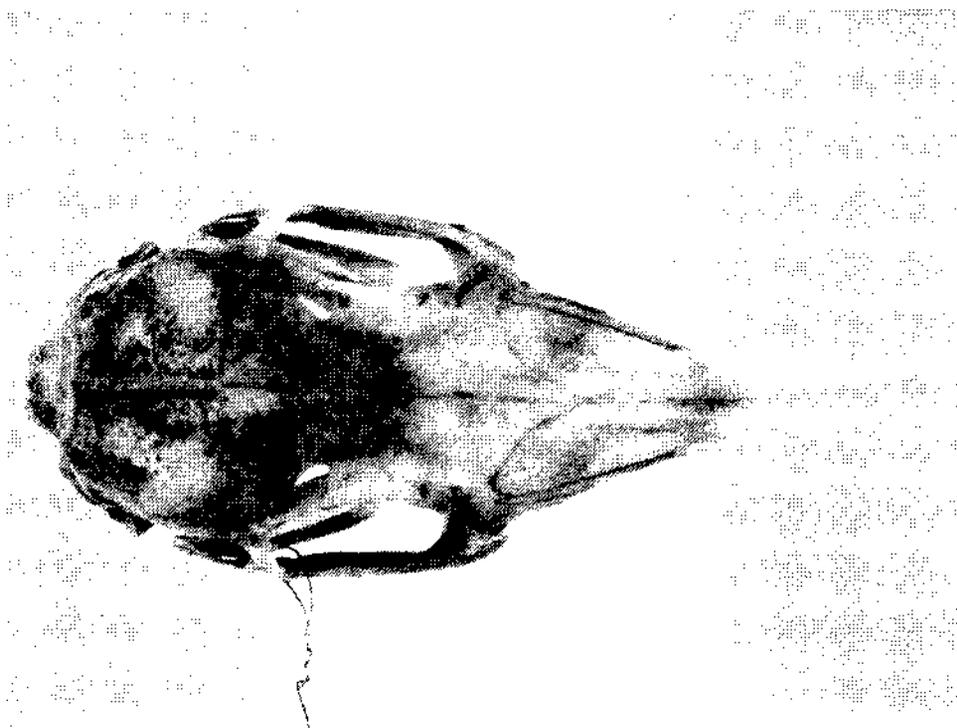


Fig. 2. Dorsal view of skull showing left lower incisor, and normal development of skull. 2x natural size.