

K COMPARISON OF MOUNTAIN AND ETOSHA LIONS

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MATERIAL:

1 male and 7 female mountain lion skulls
4 male and 4 female Etosha lion skulls (incl.
records from Roberts, 1951).

Only the sample of female mountain lions is adequate
for calculation of statistical parameters.

RESULTS:

1. On the whole the mountain lion, both male and female, tends to be slightly smaller than the Etosha form.
2. This difference is most obvious in the case of the females, where, however, sample size (1 only in the mountain lion, and never more than 4 values for Etosha lion) is so small as to render any conclusion highly speculative.
3. In the females the difference is never sufficiently marked to allow subspecies separation; indeed the mean values for Etosha females fall approximately 1.5 SD from female mountain lion means; for subspecies separation $M \pm 1.5 SD$ for both populations should show no overlap.

CONCLUSION:

It is not, on present evidence, justified to separate the two populations in question at the subspecies level. "

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