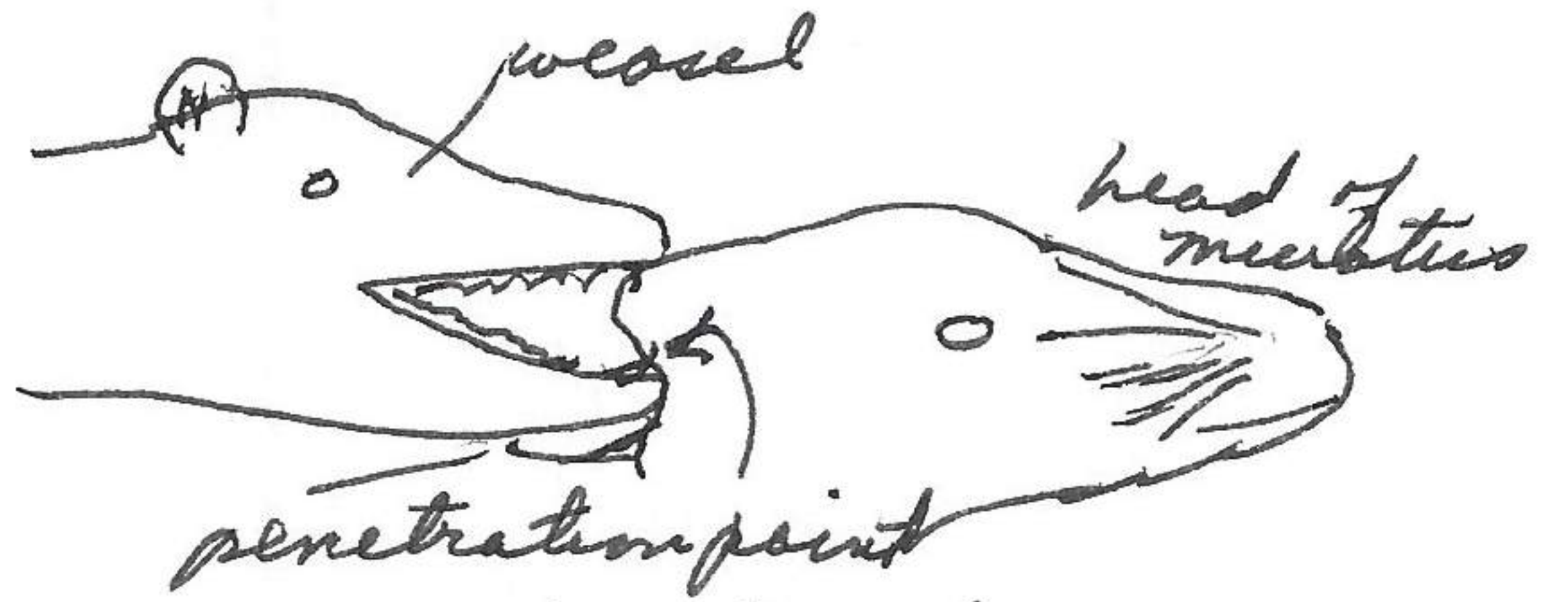


the action suggested an act of copulation in which the weaselle grasped the microtus with front and rear feet. The readjustment of hind & front feet always indicated a better grasp for the position assumed. A bear hug would be descriptive. The top of the head of the microtus and particularly the ears were continually being gently chewed (more like caressing) and finally the lower jaw of the Mustela penetrated the skull in the ~~supero~~ occipital region. Continued gnawing enlarged the hole but with lower jaw still doing all the work. The lower jaw finally reached its maximum penetration and the brain material is contacted for the final killing of the microtus.



The brain is then consumed and then the flesh is eaten around the side of the head and neck and then the shoulders, and through this region into liver, heart and lung cavities and thence into stomach and intestines. Only parts of stomach & intestines were consumed. A live specimen of microtus montanus was placed in cage to see how the weaselle would react. At first it struck at the mouse like a snake followed by rushing the mouse. The microtus stood up and fought the weaselle with its front feet and head, or if actually contacted would roll and tumble in clucked position as a rolling blur. Frequently the weaselle would approach the microtus side-ways with the rear end of the weaselle leading as if to protect itself or confuse the microtus and then turn around and make contact. The weaselle would attempt to approach to the rear of microtus but the mouse would always turn so that it faced the weaselle. The main objective of the weaselle was to get on the back of the microtus but would not try to reach this position without using its teeth. When in position, however, would start gnawing on the back of the skull of the microtus. The clasping effect is pronounced and am wondering if the large feet are not adapted for the hugging action. Once it gets the animal in the "bear hug", the weaselle has won the battle. In this case, however, the microtus showed no unusual effect, except fear, from the 20 minutes of activity. At the end of that time they were living in peaceful harmony. The weaselle would climb over the resting microtus and take the following position