

October 24, 1952

adult ♂

young ♂

Lesions
in
Frontal
sinuses →

MUSTELA ERMINEA ARCTICA-

The volume of the braincase of *Mustela erminea arctica* was determined by placing lead shot into braincase and then measuring the volume of the shot in a graduated cylinder and in the weight of the shot. It was apparent that the younger weasels had relatively larger braincase, ^{20% larger} than the adults. It is not known whether this condition is usual for this species of weasel. If there is not a normal decrease in the skull of the young with growth by internal appositional growth and absorption on the exterior, some other explanation then must be proposed. One explanation is that there is a differential growth according to the time ^{of year} when the young were born or whether they were born during a population high of their principal prey species. Summer growth and good food supply could produce a large animal than winter conditions & scarcity of food. Another explanation might be in the invasion of the smaller form south of the Brooks Range into the territory of the larger form north of the Brooks Range. Such invasion could occur under exceptional circumstances of lack of food or purely on the basis of the extensive wandering.