

Aug 15	52 gms
" 19	51.1 "
" 23	52.0 "
" 27	52.0 "
" 28	52.0 "

This *Desmostenys* no. 520828-1 died today from an accidental death. The molt on the back, posterior, although now shows only three small white spots, is for all tense and purposes in full summer molt. From July 6 until this date Aug. 28, the hair on the back has come in gradually to replace the white winter hair. It appears that there are two centers of growth, one, which proceeds the other and comes in from venter around forelegs to converge on top. The head molt advances posteriorly to shoulders. The posterior part of body comes secondarily and later.

Evidence from experiment no. 530311-1 suggests several things.

1. There is a pronounced physiological adjustment at the onset of molting and although the animal eat and drink at normal levels, the weight goes down for from six to ten days.
2. There is a regular pattern of molt.
3. Animals molt at different rates.
4. Hair is replaced that can be either grey, white, or tawny.
5. The animal with the more aggressive disposition complete its molt ~~more~~ sooner than the less aggressive.
6. Something in their ecology interrupts the normal pattern of molt.
7. Light has greater influence than temperature or food in starting molt.
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