

Trichechus (Odobænus) rosmarus, Linnæus. Morse, Walrus, or Sea Horse. North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Odobænus rosmarus, Linn., Syst. Nat., ed. i., 1735.

Phoca rosmarus, Linn., Syst. Nat., ed. x. p. 38, 1758.

Trichechus rosmarus, Auctorum.

Odobænus rosmarus, Steenstrup, Öfversigt k. Vetensk. Akad. Förhandl., Bd. xvi. p. 441, 1859 ;
Zeitschr. f. gesamt. Naturw., xv. p. 275, 1860.

„ „ Malmgren, Öfversigt k. Vetensk.-Akad. Förhandl., 1863 (1864) (quoted by Allen).

The above description of the skull of the genus *Trichechus* has been written from the comparison of the crania of a number of specimens in the Anatomical Museum of the University of Edinburgh, which are all believed to be from the North Atlantic Walrus, so that they may be regarded as comprising both its specific and generic characters. On the supposition entertained by the majority of naturalists that the Walruses of both the North Atlantic and North Pacific are of the same species, they would, I doubt not, also coincide with the last-named animal, but as I have not had the opportunity of examining the skull of a specimen known to be from the North Pacific I cannot speak with absolute certainty. Mr. J. A. Allen has indeed attempted to show that specific differences separate the Walruses of these two oceans from each other, and, reviving an old name given by Illiger, he has distinguished the North Pacific animal by the name of *Odobænus (Trichechus) obesus*. In thus subdividing the genus he is also supported by Mr. H. E. Elliott.

In making this division Mr. Allen attaches great importance to a difference in the relative development of the frontal and occipital regions in the two animals. In the Atlantic species, he says, the narrow facial breadth is in striking contrast with the great occipital breadth, whereas in the Pacific species the two regions are more equally developed. The interorbital constriction is both relatively and absolutely much narrower in the Pacific animal; the tusks are longer and thicker, generally more convergent and less incurved in the Pacific, whilst in the Atlantic animal they are divergent and strongly incurved. In the Pacific species the front profile is nearly vertical, and the anterior edge of the nasals is very little posterior to the front border of the base of the tusk, and the orbits are more anterior; in the Atlantic animal the front profile is very oblique, the muzzle is smaller and the nasals scarcely pass beyond a vertical line drawn from the hinder border of the base of the tusk.

With regard to these characters I would point out that the increase in frontal breadth of the North Pacific animal, which makes it approximately equal to the occipital breadth, would necessarily be occasioned by an increase in thickness of the canine tusks, and the consequently greater development of the superior maxillary bones for their lodgment, and as it is stated that in the Pacific animal the tusks are thicker than in the Atlantic specimen, it is possible that these differences, as described by Allen, are not specific, but are simply due to certain specimens having thicker tusks than others. With