<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>項目</th>
<th>内容</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>項目</td>
<td>大雪山産ナキウサキ（ハツカウサギ）の食物貯蔵所に就て</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>作者</td>
<td>犬飼 哲男</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本誌</td>
<td>札幌博物学会会報</td>
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HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

略称: HUSCAP
A FOOD-HOARD OF OCHOTONA FROM TAISETSUZAN, THE CENTRAL MOUNTAINS OF HOKKAIDO

BY

TETSUO INUKAI

大雪山産ナキウサギ(ハツカウサギ)の食物貯蔵所に就て
犬飼哲男

In a previous paper writing with SHIMAKURA, the author gave a short history of finding of Ochotona1, the pica, from Kitami in Hokkaido together with some ecological notes of the animal. Furthermore, quite recently it has become known that Ochotona is also a common inhabitant on the rocky part of the central high mountains of the island, many specimens having been actually collected. The mountains are a little more than 2000 meters above the sea level and being volcanic in origin the tops are rocky in most parts. Alpine meadows or frigid zone plants are developed above 1400 meters whence a rich flora of alpine plants is found.

In winter the land of Hokkaido except the south eastern part is completely under snow for months and it is particularly deep in the mountainous region where the weather is exceptionally severe with much ice and cold. Despite these conditions it has been found that the fauna in the frigid zone of the mountains is also very abundant with Ochotona and the striped ground squirrel or the striped chipmunk throughout the year. The former lives chiefly in rocky crevices or among crumbling rocks making a great association while the latter

1) Ochotona yezoensis KISHIDA.

is the constant inhabitant of bushes of *Pinus pumila*. The visits of brown bears, foxes and ermines which are the regular summer visitors of the mountain do not occur so often in this region. Other kinds of rodents, hares, rats, mice and grey squirrels are generally found below in the shrubby zone.

The peculiar shrill cry or the whistling of the pica and that of the chipmunk closely resemble each other. They make together an almost continuous noise in some parts of the mountain particularly in the foggy or cloudy days and in the dimness of the morning and the evening. Since the pica as well as the chipmunk do not take the winter sleep or not hibernate they are diligent food-hoarders during summer. As generally understood the food of the striped squirrel consists of almost anything, including even small animals, besides vegetables,

![Fig. 1.]

This shows the entrance (e) of the storage under a big rock. It is hardly recognizable from outside.

with a preference for fruits, seeds and nuts for the winter use. They are abundant around the dwelling of the animal in the mountain. As already
noted *Ochotona* in Kitami does severe damage to the forest plantings, as the food of the animal in that district comprises the saplings of the larch and the wild raspberry which it cuts into pieces to lay up in storage. Whether the animal from Kitami is the same species as that from Taisetsuzan is not yet decided. However, it is true that the food of the pica in Taisetsuzan is composed mostly of alpine plants which are the only growth on these mountains.

It was the end of August of 1926, in fact, when the present writer engaged in the collection of animals in the central mountains as a member of the Surveying Committee of Taisetsuzan that a large food-hoard was found on the rocky side of Haku-undake in Taisetsuzan (Fig. 1). It was a natural, horizontal crevice among rocks, measuring about 16 cm in height and 60 cm in width at the entrance, the depth being about the same as the width. At the time of finding about two-thirds of the room was filled up with leaves and twigs of plants which were all cut about 6 cm in length by the animal (Fig. 2 and 3). The whistling of the pica around this place was heard particularly

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2) Mr. Kishida of the Imp. Agr. Exp. Station in Tokyo is going to publish on the subject.
boisterously. By examining the kinds of plants 16 different species of alpine plants were identified as follows:

- *Salix yeo-alpina* Koidz.
- *Salix Reini Franch.* et *Sav.*
- *Phyllodoce aleutica* A. Hel- ler
- *Phyllodoce caerulea* Bab.
- *Empetrum nigrum* L.
- *Vaccinium Vitis-idaea* L.
- *Rhododendron chrysanthum* Fall.
- *Pentstemon frutescens* Lamb.
- *Arnica unalascensis* Less.
- *Arcteria nana* Makino
- *Saussurea* sp.
- *Cassiope lycopodioides* D. Don
- *Lagotis borealis* Bail.
- *Arctous alpina* Nied. var. *japonica* Takeda
- *Cladonia* sp.
- *Cetraria* sp.

The first snow fall in Taisetsuzan occurs annually in October and by the middle of November the whole mountain is completely covered with snow. The melting of snow first begins in the mountain at the end of June. Therefore the animals must store the food to afford a supply more than 8 months in this region. Thus during summer the storage fever seems actually to take possession of the animal.

(Zoological Institute, Hokkaido Imp. Univ.)

3) Mr. M. Tatewaki in the Botanical Institute of Hokkaido Imperial University kindly helped me in identification of the plants.
論文

文献


要 紹

ナキウサギなる名稱は使余が、鳥倉学士との共著に於て北見国西戸地方に、北海道に初めて見見された Ochotona の発見記及びその生態的調査の報告の際に附した名稱である。然に近来牛田氏等はこれに廿日負なる名稱を固執し、朝鮮産 Ochotona にも用ひ又他の人は鼠尾等と呼してゐるので、斯界の盛名を避けるため余もハツカウサギなる名稱を併用するのである。

私この動物は、昭和三年十月初め至て戸で捕獲したのであるが、その後も山系にも多数に繁殖することを判明し、既に旭川及林業署等に依り標本を多数採集せられた。大雪山系は火山系の高山で山頂には岩石畑をしてゐるが、海拔二千余米を越へ千四百米以上に所謂、高山植物帯。

即ち、寒地植物帯がよく発達して豐富な植物相を現してゐる。冬季は全氷雪に閉され附近に山頂部に酸霧を設すのである。それにも拘らず山頂には四季を通じて二種の哺乳類が現実してゐる。即ち、一はシマリス多くハイマツ中に棲み、他はナスカウサギで岩石の多い箇所を根拠とし、何れも好んで群居して共同生活を営んでゐる。この二つの動物はその鳴き声も非常に類似してゐるため、縁側の日又は薄明薄暮に至ればその棲息所遠近を通り過でれる人の奇ど耳を聴するばかりである。

春末から秋期迄は猬、狐、ウサギ、貂、狐、果鼠等が時々山頂近くに出没するが、冬期は前記のシマリス、ハツカウサギを残し齢は冬眠し、他は山鼠の森林帯に下つてゐる。然しシマリス及びナスカウサギは冬雪期に於て見ず冬眠することなく、察ら夏期飼養した食料を食ひつつ能居生活を続けるのである。北見地方のハツカウサギの食料は、既に報告した知く落葉樹及びモミリの稲穂で、このため植物地で大被害を見たのであるが、大雪山系のものは全く高山植物のみである。一言すべきは、シマリスは夏期に植物の芽葉根皮を食することありと、 PARTICULARLYの研究を要とさせんとある。

Fig. 1 入口は大十六センチ、幅六十七センチ、深さ約六十七センチの水平孔で、當時はその状況の二寸角断された植物の葉髪で充填されてゐた。（Fig. 3）その中の植物は多くは先端部に先端に、約六十七センチの長さに切られてゐた。（Fig. 3）余は林業學士の援助により下記の十六種の植物を拾出し得た。即ち

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<th>アマツガサダラ</th>
<th>エゾトウガザクラ</th>
<th>カイガラズ</th>
<th>ホソバノツツガサ</th>
<th>ウラシマツツガ</th>
<th>ハナノツクサ類</th>
<th>ヤマノツクサ類</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 大雪山に於ける初雪は、毎年十月を十一月中旬より全雪に埋れ六月末に初めて融雪がある。このため積雪山頂に棲むシマリス及びナスカウサギは少なくとも八ヶ月の食料を貯蔵しなくてはならない。従って夏期には地の動物は専らその貯蔵に忙殺されるのである。

（北海道立大学動物学教室）