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A supernumerary bone in the pelvic girdle of the Domestic cat, *Felis silvestris* f. *catus* Linné, 1758

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A case of an atypical formation of the pelvic girdle was stated accidentally in one of the specimens of the Domestic cat (*Felis silvestris* f. *catus* Linné, 1758), skeletized for the aims of school demonstrations in workshops of DIPRA Coop., Praha. The respective material of unstandardized animals had been delivered by the quarantine farm of laboratory animals VELAZ, Praha. No other data are known of the specimen in question excepting those given in the Table and excepting praesacral length of the vertebral column (370 mm).

Table 1

Measurements of pelvis and of bone described

pelvis	mm	bone	mm
length total	77.2	length total	15.8
length of ramus acetabularis		breadth of proximal (basal) end	4.0 × 2.4
ossis pubis	19.0	breadth of distal end	4.3 × 4.0
length of symphysis	24.3	breadth of middle part	2.3
		size of articulatory face	2.5 × 2.0

According to the measurements the specimen is considered to be an adult middle sized female (cf. PORKERT 1968; KRATOCHVÍL 1976).

The supernumerary element described here is an odd, stick-formed, 15.8 mm long bone. When found in situ, the bone articulated through an oval face on its basal end with a corresponding surface of 2.3 × 2.9 mm, situated on the right pubic bone at the distance of 10.5 mm from the cranial outside of symphysis. The articulation was stabilized by three ligaments which inserted at the acetabular branch of pubis. The position of the bone is shown in the figure.

There are two possible ways how to explain an origin of the respective element. According to its location and structural characters, the bone referred to can be considered

with a high probability for an ossification in the tendon of a pelvic muscle (probably of *musculus psoas minor*), which is described in literature as *myositis ossificans* (*myostosis* according to KITZ, cf. JOEST 1969). It occurs rather frequently in the cattle, horses, dogs and especially in pigs (NIEBERLE and COHRS 1954; JOEST 1969), being often caused by trauma.

On the other hand, however, certain morphological and topographical characters of the find suggest rather conspicuously also to a situation known in some recent species of marsupials, namely in those where so called external apophyses of marsupial bones are developed very markedly (*Phalanger*, *Phascocolomis*); in these species, the apophyses articulate with pubic bones practically in the same way as does the bone described. In spite of this fact as well as of some new finds of marsupial bones in *Pantotheria* and *Multituberculata*, which allow to reason on an occurrence of these bones also in certain mesozoic predecessors of placental mammals (cf. KIELAN-JAWOROWSKA 1975; HENKEL and KREBS 1977), the atavistic occurrence of prepubis seems to be highly improbable in the Domestic cat.

The material described is deposited in anatomical collections of the Zoology Department, National Museum of Prague (coll. No. 25290).



Fig. 1. Pelvis of Domestic cat, coll. No. 25290, ventrolateral view (Photo I. HERÁŇ)

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