An incisor with double crown in a Stoat (Mustela erminea L.)

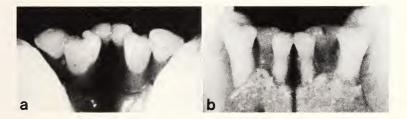
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Among the 109 skulls of stoats (*Mustela erminea* Linnaeus, 1758) from the Polish collections there is one (No. 30731 in the collection of the Mammals Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Bialowieza; condylobasal length 46.5 mm), belonging to an adult male killed near Hajnówka (Poland), with an atypically developed permanent left lower second incisor (Fig. 1). The crown of this tooth has a distinct groove on its surface, dividing it into two parts. The lateral part resembles in shape and size a crown of the right I₂, whereas the medial one is intermediate in size between the lateral part and a crown of I₁. The root of the examined incisor shows no sign of splitting, but it is distinctly larger than a root of the right I₂.

It seems that this atypical tooth can be interpreted as the effect of the incomplete split of the second incisor germ or the incomplete fusion of this germ with an additional tooth germ formed on the dental lamina in the second position from the midline.



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