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Identification of Recent Bats belonging to the Rhinolophidae by the Humeral Characters

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Humeral characters of eleven recent species and one subspecies belonging to three genera of the Rhinolophidae including two subfamilies were described. A key provides for their identification as well as the identification of the fossil bats found on the Akiyoshi-dai Plateau. Further, we discussed differences in the adaptability for flight of the bats not only within each taxon of the family but also between the phylogenetically less advanced Rhinolophidae and the more advanced Vespertilionidae, taking the value of DW/PW (the ratio of the distal epiphysis width to the proximal one) and the wing-type ratio (the third finger to the fifth one) into consideration. In consequence, as a rule, the more the bat was in a phylogenetically high position, the more the adaptability for flight was high.

INTRODUCTION

A number of humeri of fossil bats, which occupy a great part of the fossil skeleton, have been found on the Akiyoshi-dai Plateau and consequently the identification of the fossil bats to the species level by only the humeral characters became necessary. It has been well known that the humerus exhibits the property of the family, subfamily, genus and species (Miller, 1907; Revilliod, 1922; Lawrence, 1943; Vaughan, 1959, 1970; Sigé, 1971; Yoon *et al.*, 1981; Yoon and Uchida, 1983). In this connection, Yoon and Uchida (1983) made clear the fact that 23 species of nine genera belonging to the Vespertilionidae including three subfamilies can be classified by only the humeral characters. They also dealt with the adaptability for flight within each taxon of the Vespertilionidae using the value of DW/PW (the ratio of the distal epiphysis width to the proximal one) as well as the wing-type ratio (the third finger to the fifth one).

The aim of the present study was to classify the members belonging to the Rhinolophidae by the humeral characters. Furthermore, we discussed the difference in the adaptability for flight both between the Rhinolophidae and the Vespertilionidae, and within each taxon of the Rhinolophidae.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We studied the right humeri, as a rule, of Rhinolophidae available, includ-

ing six species and one subspecies of *Rhinolophus* belonging to the Rhinolophinae, and the single species of *Asellia* and four species of *Hipposideros* belonging to the Hipposiderinae (see Tables 1 and 2). Since we found no differences between two subspecies of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum nippon* and *R. f. korai*, they were included together in the species concerned.

With respect to the humeri of the species examined, the humerus length (HL), proximal epiphysis width (PW) and distal epiphysis width (DW) were measured by a caliper with $1/20\,\mathrm{mm}$ precision, and then the value of DW/PW was calculated. The wing-type ratio also was estimated.

DESCRIPTIONS

Family Rhinolophidae

The Rhinolophidae inhabiting Japan is composed of members belonging to Rhinolophus (Rhinolophinae) and Hipposideros (Hipposiderinae). The humeri of the Rhinolophidae examined (Rhinolophus, Asellia and Hipposideros) possess the following characteristics (Fig. 1). The humeral shaft (s) is slightly sigmoid in lateral view. The trochiter (tr) curves laterad and projects beyond the head (h). The trochin (tn) is lower than the trochiter. The anterior pit (ap, the pit immediately anterior to the head) is shallow and the medial ridge (mr) is undeveloped or slightly developed. The lateral knob is undeveloped and the pectoral ridge (pr) is knife-like in appearence. The capitulum (c) consists of the inner (ir) and lateral (lr) ridges divided by a lateral groove. Another inner groove, which is nearly parallel to the humeral axis as well as the above one, separates the inner ridge of the capitulum from the trochlea (ta). The trochlea is sharp on the margin and the medial epicondyle (me) The spinous process (sp) is peg-like in appearence. The distal epiphysis is very wide, and both the distal articular surface and the radial fossa (rf) are remarkably eccentric outwards against the humeral axis. The lateral epicondylar crest is absent, and both the olecranon fossa (of) and the radial fossa are shallow. The value of DW/PW is 1.33-o. 99.

Key to the subfamilies and genera of Rhinolophidae examined on the basis of the humeral morphology

- 1. Head taking the form of an inverted triangle with rotundity; groove between the capitular inner ridge and lateral one very deep. DW/PW: 1.33-l. 16......Rhinolophinae (*Rhinolophus*)
- - 2'. Shaft moderately thick, cylindrical except in distal part; apex of head pointing caudad; trochiter relatively low; medial ridge slightly

Species	N	HL (Rv. in mm)	DW/PW (Av.)	Wing-type (III/V)	Locality
Rhinalathus cornutus	13	21.75 22.25) 90	1.17 .74.33	1.10 - 1.15	Japan
R. monoceros	2	21.50, 22.40	1.16, 1.18	1.14, 1.14	Taiwan
R. imaizumi	3	22.40_{-23}^{-23} 05	1.17_{-18}^{-1}	1.1416	Japan
R. creaghi	2	<i>28.50, 29.15</i>	1. 16, 1. 19	1.25, 1.25	Malaysia
R. euryale euryale	2	27. 45, 27.60	1.21, 1.21	1.26, 1.29	Jugoslavia
R. ferrumequinum	12	34.25 - 37.20 (35.24)	1.19 ~ 1.24 (1.21)	1.15 - 1.22	Japan Korea

Table 1. Comparison of the humerus and the wing-type in *Rhinolophus* species examined (Rhinolophinae).

HL. humerus length; DW/PW, ratio of the distal epiphysis width to the proximal one of the humerus; III/V, ratio of the third finger to the fifth one.

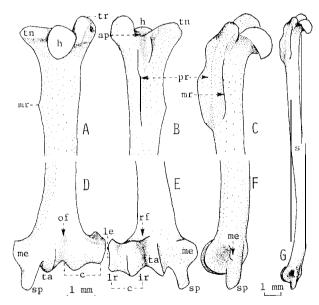


Fig. 1. Right humerus of *Rhinolophus cornutus*, showing posterior (A, D), anterior (B, E) and medial (C, F) views of proximal and distal ends, respectively, and a whole view (G). Left and right scales are for A-F and G, respectively. Abbreviations: ap, anterior pit; c, capitulum; h, head; ir, inner ridge of capitulum; le, lateral epicondyle; lr, lateral ridge of capitulum; me, medial epicondyle; mr, medial ridge; of, olecranon fossa; pr, pectoral ridge; rf, radial fossa; s, shaft; sp, spinous process; ta, trochlea; tn, trochin; tr, trochiter.

Subfamily Rhinolophinae
Genus Rhinolophus

The humeral characteristics of three Japanese and three other foreign species are observed in this paper (Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Key to the species of *Rhinolophus* examined on the basis of the humeral morphology

- 1. Trochin nearly as high as head; pectoral ridge relatively high in lateral view; olecranon fossa vestigial.
 - 2. Humerus length about 22 mm; medial ridge terminated at nearly distal end of pectoral ridge; spinous process relatively long.
 - 3. Spinous process curved mediad R. Spinous process curved mediad R. Monoceros
- 1'. Trochin slightly higher than head; pectoral ridge relatively low in lateral view; olecranon fossa relatively deep.
 - 4. Humerus length about 27.5 mm; spinous process relatively long......

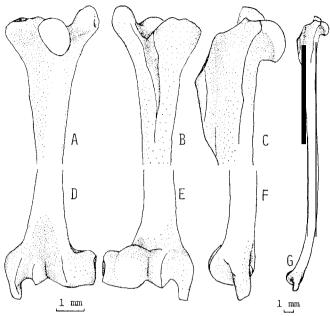
Subfamily Hipposiderinae

Genus Asellia

Regarding the single species, A. *tridens* (Table 2 and Fig. 2), the following humeral characteristics are added to those noted in the preceding key: the humerus is 29.25 mm in length; the medial ridge is terminated at higher level than the distal end of the pectoral ridge; the pectoral ridge is less than one-sixth of the humerus in length; the capitular inner ridge is about three times as wide as the lateral one; and the olecranon fossa is relatively wide but shallow.

Table 2. Comparison of the humerus and the wing-type in **Asellia** and **Hipposideros** species examined (Hipposiderinae).

Species	N	HL (Av. in mm)	DW/PW (Av.)	Wing-type (III/V)	Locality
Asellia tridens	1	29.25	0.99	1.22	Morocco
Hippocidaros pomona pomona	2	<i>23.80, 24.55</i>	1.15, 1.15	1. 19, 1. 12	India
H. bicolor	1	25.35	1.10	1. 21	Malaysia
H. turpis	3	38.05 8 .39)05	$1.07.08)^{0.09}$	1.19 - 1.23	Japan
H. armiger terasensis	2	51.50, 53.55	1.03, 1.08	1.24, 1.26	Taiwan



 ${f Fig.}$ 2. Right humerus of Asellia tridens. Alphabetical symbols and scales as in Fig. 1.

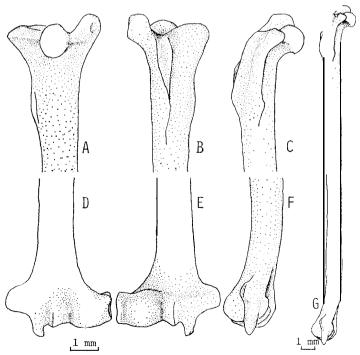


Fig. 3. Right humerus of $Hipposideros\ pomona$ Pomona. Alphabetical symbols and scales as in Fig. 1.

Genus Hipposideros

The humeral characteristics of one Japanese species and three other foreign species are described in this paper (Table 2 and Fig. 3).

Key to the species of *Hipposideros* examined on the basis of the humeral morphology

- 1. Humerus length about 25 mm; pectoral ridge about one-seventh of humerus in length. DW/PW: 1.15-L 10.
- 1'. Humerus length more than 38 mm ; pectoral ridge about one-fifth of humerus in length. DW/PW: 1.09-1.03.
 - 3. Humerus length about 38 mm; olecranon fossa relatively shallow

 H. turbis

DISCUSSION

Adaptive implication for flight between the Rhinolophidae and the Vespertilionidae

Yoon and Uchida (1983) discussed the functional significance of the humeral morphology and the adaptation of bats for flight within each taxon belonging to the Vespertilionidae. There are essential differences in the humeral morphology between the phylogenetically less advanced Rhinolophidae having a maneuverable flight mode like a butterfly and the more advanced Vespertilionidae developing various flight modes. First, the pectoral ridge is very different in shape between the two families; this is closely associated with the amount of muscles of the upper arm. For example, in the Rhinolophidae bearing a well-developed pectoral muscle, its anterior division inserts on the lateral border of the knife-like pectoral ridge, whereas in the Vespertilionidae that of the thin pectoral muscle inserts on the pedestal-like ridge. Thus, the thick biceps muscle passes through a shallow and wide groove in the Rhinolophidae, while the thin biceps muscle runs along a deeper and narrower groove in the Vespertilionidae.

Secondly, in the Rhinolophidae, since the distal articular surface is eccentric laterad against the humeral axis, the spinous process does not function as a reinforcing device and the radius reaches to the back when the wing is folded; the elbow joint is by no means strong, the mobile angle of the radius also is high, and these characteristics are, therefore, suitable for a slow and weak downstroke. In the Vespertilionidae, however, of which the spinous process is well developed generally and curved laterad, works as a locking

apparatus and considerably restricts the movable angle of the radius; the elbow joint is strengthened, the movable angle of the radius becomes low, and thus a downstroke becomes speedy and strong.

Another important characteristic related closely to flight lies in the value of DW/PW, which is generally higher in the Rhinolophidae (0.99-1.33) than in the Vespertilionidae (0.64-1. 12) as shown in Fig. 4; moreover, there is a lowering tendency of the value in a sequence from the Rhinolophidae to the Vespertilionidae. The higher ratio indicates that the mobile force originated

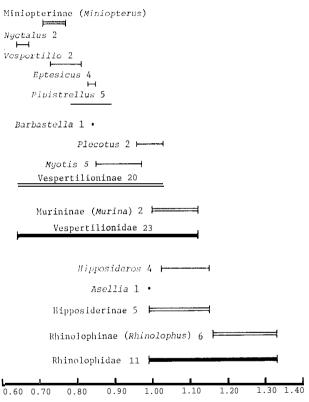


Fig. 4. Comparison of ranges of the DW/PW ratio between the Rhinolophidae including three genera of two subfamilies and the Vespertilionidae including nine genera of three subfamilies. The data in the Vespertilionidae are based on Yoon and Uchida (1983). Each numeral represents the number of species examined.

from the scapula and the sternum is transmitted to the upper arm more dispersedly and thus the wing-beat power becomes weaker, because the force passes through the wide distal epiphysis of the humerus bearing the broad insertion surface for muscles (Yoon and Uchida, 1983). From also the wing-type ratio (Fig. 5), it is pointed out that the Rhinolophidae with short-broad wings (1.10-1. 29) flies more slowly than the Vespertilionidae with interme-

diate or long-narrow wings (1.19-l. 75); in contrast with the DW/PW, a heightening tendency of the ratio is visible in the same sequence. Thus, it became evident that the value of DW/PW and the wing-type ratio are the most important criteria exhibiting the degree of adaptation, even though the bats belong to different families.

In fact, it has been revealed that *Rhinolophus* is a low-speed flier with a high maneuverability, compared with members of the Vespertilionidae (especially *Miniopterus*), from disparities in the number of the wing-beat, wing-loading (Kuramoto, 1972) and the myoglobin concentration (Ohtsu *et al.*, 1978; Ohtsu and Uchida, 1979b), fiber composition (Ohtsu and Uchida, 1979a, b) and LDH isozyme pattern (Kitahara *et al.*, 1974) of the pectoral muscle.

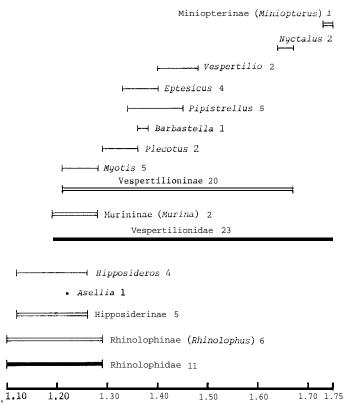


Fig. 5. Comparison of ranges of the wing-type ratio (III/V) between the Rhinolophidae and Vespertilionidae. Other explanations as in Fig. 4.

Adaptation for flight at the subfamily and generic levels within the Rhinolophidae

As for the taxonomical relationships between *Rhinolophus* and *Hipposideros*, Koopman and Jones (1970) and Andō (1982) placed the two genera in the Rhinolophinae and Hipposiderinae, respectively, although there was also an

opinion that each of them belong to the Rhinolophidae and Hipposideridae (Miller, 1907).

Both the genera share the morphological properties to a considerable extent with each other. But, *Hipposideros* is characterized by the specialized characteristics, i. e. complication of the noseleaf (especially lower leaf), presence of the frontal sac above the upper noseleaf, degradation of the premolar (P") and molar (M^3), loss of the premolar (P_3), decrease in the number of the pedal phalanges and strengthening of the chest by the fusion of the sternoclavicular and sternocostal joints (Miller, 1907; Hill, 1963; Walton and Walton, 1970; Vaughan, 1972). Furthermore, Andō (1982) stated that *Hipposideros* is a more advanced form than *Rhinolophus*, on a hypothesis that both the genera descended from the same ancestor having a karyotype of 2n=62 and FN=60.

Compared *Rhinolophus* and *Hipposideros* in the humeral characteristic, it is suggested that the latter is superior to the former in the flight speed judging from the lower value of DW/PW in *Hipposideros*; generally, the value of DW/PW heightens in slow fliers, but lowers in fast fliers. However, it seems that both the genera are similar in the degree of maneuverability because of the similar wing-type ratio. Thus, also concerning the humerus, it is noted that

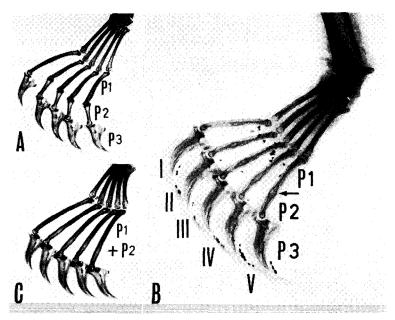


Fig. 6. Comparison of the pedal phalangeal articulation among *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (A), *Asellia tridens* (B) and *Hipposideros turpis* (C). Note the vestiges of the interphalangeal articulation between the first and second phalanges from the second digit to fifth one in A. tridens (indicated by an arrow). A and $C \times 3.4$, $B \times 6.8$ (by courtesy of Dr. K. Andō). Abbreviations: I, first digit; II, second digit; III, third digit; IV, fourth digit; V, fifth digit; Pl, first phalanx; P2, second phalanx; P3, third phalanx.

Rhinobphus retains the relatively primitive characteristics, whereas *Hipposideros* obtains the comparatively progressive characters, advancing further in the adaptability for flight.

Concerning the phylogenetical position of *Asellia*, it lies midway between *Rhinolophus* and *Hipposideros*. For example, the pedal interphalangeal articulation between the first and second phalanges from the second digit to fifth one is preserved perfectly in *Rhinolophus*, but in contrast, completely fused in *Hipposideros*, while it is fusing but remains the visible vestige in *Asellia*. *Ac*-cordingly, it can be said that *Asellia* is a link of *Rhinolophus* and *Hipposideros* (Fig. 6). Miller (1907) regarded *Asellia* as a member of the Hipposideridae, but Koopman and Jones (1970) placed the genus in the Rhinolophinae (Rhinolophidae). Andō (1982), however, considered it a primitive genus originated from an ancestor of *Hipposideros*, and treated it as a member of the Hipposiderinae, judging from the karyotype (2n=50,FN=62).

We desire to regard Asellia as a component of the Hipposiderinae from the fact that the humerus, especially in the head and the capitulum, resembles in shape that of Hipposideros rather than Rhinolophus. Some humeral characters, e. g. the long trochiter and spinous process, and the low value of DW/PW, however, suggest that Asellia with strong joints of the shoulder and elbow is an advanced genus in the adaptability for flight, compared with Rhinolophus and Hipposideros, in spite of its phylogenetical position.

Adaptability for flight in the five examined species of Rhinolophus

The phylotaxonomy of Rhinolophus based on the external characters has been studied mainly by Andersen (1905 a, b, 1918), and Tate and Archbold (1939). Recently, Andō (1982) discussed the phylogenetical relationships, taking account of the karyology in addition to the external characters. He regarded species having the karyotype of 2n=62 with a FN=60 as primitive forms and species having the karyotype including biarmed autosomes as advanced forms, assuming that the ancestor form of Rhinolophus might have the karyotype, consisting of only acrocentric autosomes, of 2n = 62 and FN = 60. Moreover, it is a general trend that the larger the bat, the higher the phylogenetical position within Rhinolophus (Andō and Uchida, 1974). Based on the above accounts, R. c. cornutus (And6 and Uchida, 1974, 2n=62, FN=60), R. c. perditus [=R. imaizumi], R. monoceros (Andō et al., 1980, 2n = 62, FN=60) and R. creaghi (Harada and Kobayashi, 1980, 2n=62, FN=60) are the most primitive species, and R. euryale, R. f. ferrumequinum (Capanna and Civitelli, 1964, 2n = 58, FN = 60) and R. f. nippon (Andō and Uchida, 1974, 2n = 58, FN = 62) are arranged in ascending order of evolution.

On the other hand, it is plausible that the adaptability for flight of *Rhinolophus* examined has hardly altered from after its appearence to now, judging from little interspecific variation in the humeral morphology and the value of DW/PW (Table 1). However, it seems that *R. creaghi* and *R. e. euryale* with a rather high wing-type ratio each, which are inferior to the other three species in the ability of maneuverability, have specialized toward fast flying.

Adaptability for flight in the four examined species of Hipposideros

According to Hill (1963), who discussed the phylogenetical relationships between and within species groups, *H. p. pomona* and *H. bicolor* belonging to the *bicolor* group are regarded as primitive species, while *H. turpis* and *H. a. terasensis* of the *armiger* group are considered advanced ones. On the other hand, the karyotypes of nine *Hipposideros* species, reported so far, including *H. turpis* and *H. armiger* have the same 2n (32) and FN (60) values, although slight differences are recognized among them in the composition of chromosome type. Further, since the karyotypes of *H. p. pomona* and *H. bicolor* have not yet been examined, it is difficult to discuss the karyotypic evolution among the *Hipposideros* species concerned.

As to the characters concerning the adaptability for flight, the value of DW/PW is highest in *H. p. pomona*, and next in order are *H. bicolor*, *H. turpis* and *H. a. terasensis*, and the wing-type ratio is slightly higher in *H. a. terasensis* than in the other three species whose ratios resemble one another (Table 2). Hence, it may be said that the four species concerned have heightened the adaptability for flight in the above order, i. e. *H. p. Pomona* is the slowest flier with high maneuverability among the *Hipposideros* species examined, whereas *H. a. terasensis* is superior to the former in speed but inferior in the ability of maneuverability.

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