

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON CANID-BONES  
FROM REMOUCHAMPS (1)

by

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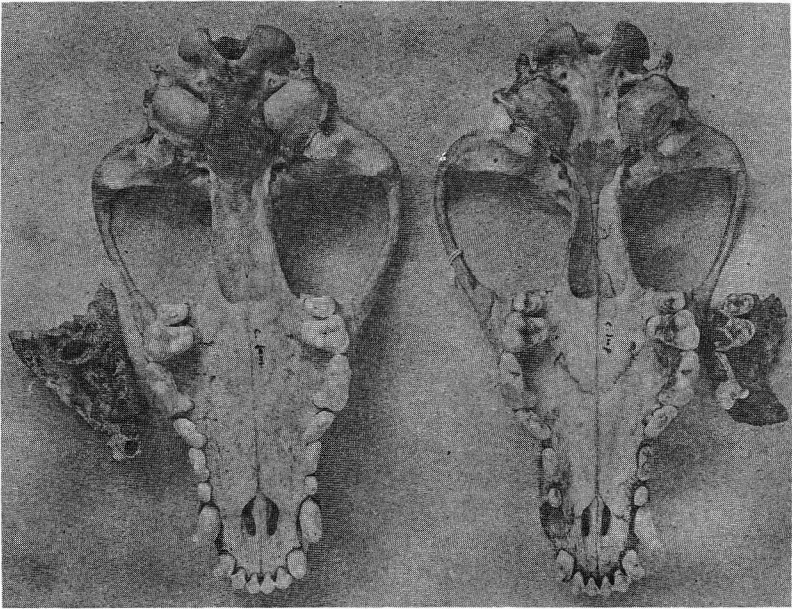


FIG 35. — De gauche à droite : maxillaire de loup (Remouchamps, D4) crâne de chien esquimau du Canada, crâne d'un loup récent, maxillaire de loup (Remouchamps, B). Photo M. Degerbøl.

I have had a look at your Canid-bones from Remouchamps. The two maxilla parts, labelled Re. 169B and Re. 169D4 are anteriorly broken between the two alveoles of the third premolar (p 3), and in front of p 3, respectively. In B the carnassial (p 4), and the two molars are present, but the lateral borders are severely damaged. In D4 the carnassial is present, but the medial

(1) Vu l'importance du problème de la distinction entre le loup et le chien dans l'Ahrensbourgien, nous avons cru bon de demander à un spécialiste, M. Degerbøl, de bien vouloir examiner deux maxillaires de Remouchamps, qui nous semblaient poser des problèmes.

and posterior part, behind the «heel» (antero-internal lobe) is crushed. Probably also the molars have been crushed ; of the 1. molar the outer roots are still placed in their alveoles ; the posterior alveole of M<sub>2</sub> is lacking.

These bones must be placed just within the range of small wolves (*Canis lupus*).

The measurements of the teeth show that they are equal in size to the smallest Danish prehistoric wolf recorded (from Hørmested. Degerbøl, 1933) and nearly also to a small recent wolf from Sweden (*l.c.*). Practically speaking the length of the carnassials are similar, and with allowance of the damaged outer side of the molars in the Remouchamps specimen the same holds good of the width ; however the impression by vision is that the Re.-teeth are a little narrower.

In the carnassial of B. a deviation in the position of the antero-internal lobe (the «heel») is seen ; in wolves and most dogs this lobe stands as an offset, and the anterior border of the tooth is nearly straight, in B. this lobe is more accentuated and placed a little more forward and inward, by which the anterior border gets a pronounced concavity, as now and then seen in dogs.

The teeth of domestic dogs, *Canis familiaris*, are smaller. A carnassial length of 23 mm is unknown in dogs. In the Preboreal dog from Star Carr the alveole length of the carnassial is 20 mm, as in a Boreal dog from Svaerdborg (Denmark). In two Maglemosian dogs (Svaerdborg and Øgaard) the crown length of the carnassials are 19.7 and 20.5 mm respectively.

I have furthermore compared the Remouchamps-maxillae with the corresponding parts of an unusual large skull of a recent Eskimo dog from Igloolik, Melville Peninsula, Canada (Degerbøl, 1928). The carnassial of this dog is comparatively large, but smaller than in wolves, and particularly the molars are smaller, a typical feature in domestic dogs.

To elucidate the dimensions of the bones proper of the Remouchamps specimens it may be mentioned that the smallest distance from the *foramen palatinum* to the posterior border of the maxilla is 29.4 mm in Re. D<sub>4</sub>, as compared with 30.4 in the Hørmested skull, 26 mm in the recent wolf skull from Sweden and 28 mm in the Igloolik dog.

The width is indicated by the distance from the *for. palatinum*, to the medial border of the carnassial ; in B this distance is considerable (17 mm) as compared with 13 mm in the other mentioned specimens.

This may signify that the width across the carnassials were very large but the said foramen seems to have had an unusual position.

Although the teeth are unworn, the bones proper are heavy and sturdy built, no doubt crushed by severe cuts. The relief of the palate is well marked with a deep concavity at the posterior part of the carnassial, against the 1. molar, and the teeth are strongly raised above the level of the palate. Also these features indicate a wild canide : a wolf. However, it is a remarkable and most interesting fact that so small (and thus, regarding size, «dog-like») wolves existed at this early period of the upper Dryas, «the Ahrensbourgian culture», in which we may expect to find the remains of the earliest domesticated dogs.