LXII.—*The Irish Otter.* By MARTIN A. C. HINTON.

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LONG ago Ogilby (P. Z. S. 1834, p. 111) described the Irish otter as a distinct species, *Lutra roensis*, "on account of the intensity of its colouring, which approaches nearly to black both on the upper and under surface; of the less extent of the pale colour beneath the throat as compared with the common otter, *L. vulgaris*, Linn., as it exists in England; and of some difference in the size of the ears and in the proportions of other parts." Ogilby added that he had "long considered the Irish otter as constituting a distinct species."

The type of *L. roensis* was presented to the Zoological Society by Miss Anna Moody of the Roe Mills, Newtown Lemavaddy, near Londonderry; later it passed into the British Museum (reg. no. 57.12.14.4), where it is now preserved. The nearly black colour described by Ogilby has become, from exposure, a nearly uniform deep reddish brown.

The Museum has just received three female otters from Co. Galway, caught during the last winter. These, as regards colour, accord perfectly with Ogilby's description; they are much darker (practically black above) than any English specimens examined by me. In my opinion, therefore, the Irish otter should be regarded as a distinct subspecies, for which the name *L. l. roensis* is available. Such a variation characterized by colour-saturation is, of course, exactly what is to be expected in the more humid climate of Ireland.

The following measurements will form a useful supplement to those given in Miller's 'Catalogue of the Mammals of Western Europe':—Females 1 and 2: head and body 710, 635 mm.; tail 430, 440; hind foot 114, 114; ear 25, 25.

*Skulls.**Lutra lutra roensis.*

Type.	Females, Co. Galway.		
	1.	2.	3.
Condyllo-basal length.....	..	108.3	..
Zygomatic breadth.....	..	64.7	65.8
Mastoid breadth.....	58.4	60	61.2
Postorbital constriction.....	14.5	14.2	..
Interorbital constriction....	16.9	18	19.4
Breadth of rostrum over canines.	25.2	24.7	24.7
Occipital depth.....	..	..	34.7
Maxillary tooth-row (canine-m.).	33.1	33.7	33.2
Mandible.....	66.6	68	68.2
Upper carnassial.....	10.4×7.9	10.6×7.9	10.5×7.9
Upper molar.....	7.7×10.6	7.7×10.6	7.9×10.7
Lower carnassial length....	12.6	12	12.9