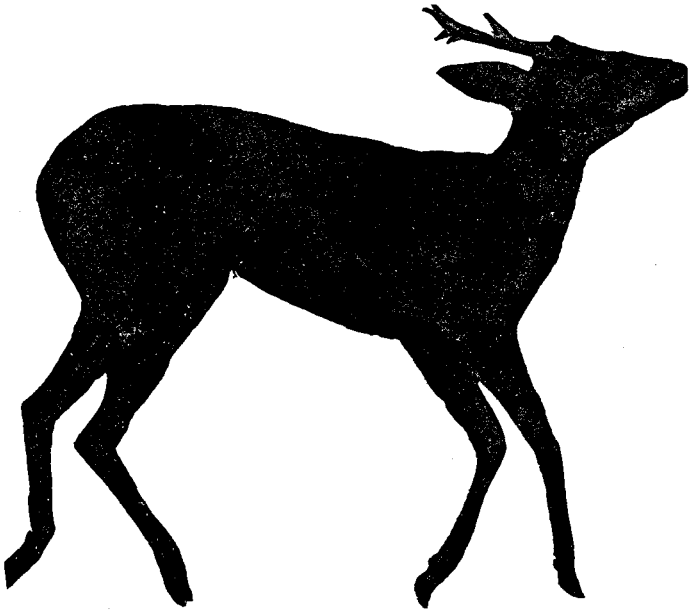


THE ROEBUCK IN PALESTINE.

IN the "Fauna and Flora" Canon Tristram notes the Roebuck among the animals of Palestine, but does not appeal to a specimen of his own collection. He says it is found in the woods of Carmel, but that Sheikh Iskandar is its most southerly station. He also states that it is called the Yahhmûr, ^{يحمور} by the natives.

Major Conder, in "Tent Work in Palestine," i, 173, says that he obtained a specimen from the charcoal burners of Carmel, and sent the bones and skin to the museum at Cambridge. He also says that



it is called Yahhmûr by the natives, and that a district of Carmel is known as "the Yahhmûr," probably from the former abundance of this animal.

The Yahhmûr of the Hebrew (Dent. xiv, 5) is translated "fallow-deer," but this is, in view of the above testimony, a mistake. The true fallow-deer (the "hart" of Ps. xlii, 1) is the Iyyal, which is not now often found south of Cassius and Amanus, where it is still hunted. Tristram says that it has been found along the Litâny and north-west of Tabor.

Last summer, Rev. W. K. Eddy, of Sidon, procured a female of the Roebuck species near Alma, in Northern Galilee. Unfortunately it was skinned only with a view to making a mat of the pelt, and so no scientific observations could be made. The bones were not preserved.

A few days since the same gentleman procured for me from natives a full-grown male, of which the accompanying is a sketch, made from the carcase, lying in an attitude which it assumed with ease when stretched out and left to replace itself. The point of view of the artist was 8 feet off from the feet and 4 feet above the animal. This gives a little fore-shortening of the neck, otherwise the proportions are well preserved.

The natives of the region about Qâna and 'Alma call this species the Wa'l ^{وعل}. The term Wa'l, however, belongs properly to the wild goat or Syrian Ibex (*Caper Beden*).

The measurements are as follows :—

	ft.	in.
Height at shoulder, approximately	2	4
" rump	2	6
Length (stretched out) from tip of nose to end of rump	3	10
" " " " hind foot	5	4
" " " " right horn	1	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
" " " " left horn	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
The eye was almond shaped, with point forward :		
Inside length	0	1 $\frac{1}{5}$
" breadth	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$

A peculiarity is that this animal had no tail. The rump was rounded. The coccyx, about 2 inches long, made no external projection.

The colour was grey, with a reddish-brown shade toward the posterior part of the rump, and white between the thighs and on the belly.

The horns are three-branched, and, as depicted in the drawing, on a straight line with the front of the face, which is quite flat.

If, as suggested by Captain Conder, this species furnished the venison, which formed part of the daily menu of Solomon, it must have been abundant in the age of that monarch. It has now become quite rare, and, so far as known to the writer, no recent specimen has been minutely described and figured. The present notes fix its identity beyond a question.

GEORGE E. POST.

Beirût, March 8th, 1890.