

INTRODUCTION

In an earlier work (Domning, 1977a) on the muscular system of the dugong, I reviewed in passing the somewhat scanty literature on myology of the manatees. This is still an inadequately known topic. As can be seen from the summary in Table 1, such descriptions as exist are for the most part fragmentary.

Based on material of widely varying quality and done by different anatomists usually only peripherally interested in myology, they afford no adequate basis for interspecific comparisons or functional analysis. The present study of *Trichechus inunguis* is an effort to partly remedy this lack of information.

TABLE 1. Previous descriptions of the myology of *Trichechus*.

Portions Described	Reference	Remarks
<i>T. manatus</i> Linnaeus, 1758		
Male pelvic muscles	Vrolik, 1852	Based on 1 immature specimen
Male and female pelvic muscles	Krauss, 1872	Based on 3 males and 3 females
Entire body	Murie, 1872, 1880	Based on 2 immature specimens and 1 adult
Brief allusions to eye muscles	Pütter, 1902	Based on 1 embryo
Intrinsic tongue muscles	Gudernatsch, 1909	Based on 1 specimen
Brief allusion to eye muscles	Quiring and Harlan, 1953	Based on 1 adult female
<i>T. senegalensis</i> Link, 1795		
Male pelvic muscles	Petit, 1925	Based on 1 immature specimen
Forelimb muscles	Bahrtdt, 1933	Based on 1 juvenile
Facial muscles	Saban, 1975	Based on 1 immature specimen
<i>T. inunguis</i> (Natterer, 1883)		
Several parts of body	Stannius, 1845, 1849	Based on 1 juvenile male
Female pelvic muscles	Freund, 1930	Based on 1 adult female, said to be one of the " <i>Manatus latirostris</i> " described by Vosseler (1924-25); but the latter were <i>T. inunguis</i> !
<i>Trichechus</i> sp.		
Male pelvic muscles	Kaudern, 1917	Based on 1 fetus
Back muscles	Slijper, 1946	Based on 1 adult male said to be <i>T. inunguis</i> , but as it had 18 thoracic vertebrae it was more likely one of the other species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was done at the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Manaus, Brazil, as part of an ongoing research program on the biology of the Amazonian manatee. This program is supported by the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) of Brazil, and by grants from the Vancouver Public Aquarium,

British Columbia, Canada, and the Fauna Preservation Society of Great Britain. I thank Robin Best, Diana Magor, and Anthony Rylands for assistance and collection of specimens, Drs. Roger Saban and William D. Turnbull for criticism of the manuscript, and Dr. Warwick Kerr, Director of INPA, and Dr. Wolfgang Junk, head of the Divisão Peixe/Pesca of INPA, for their unflinching support and encouragement.