

A Record of Tumor Occurrence in Nutria¹

HOWARD H. HILLEMANN

*Department of Zoology, Oregon State College
Corvallis, Oregon*

and

JEFF MINCKLER

Providence Hospital, Portland, Oregon

DURING THE course of routine studies in nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), one adult female was found to have three tumors associated with the integument. One of these, measuring one inch by three-fourths inch by one-half inch, was under the skin on the left abdominal wall. A second, on the right shoulder, measured one and three-fourths inch by one and one-half inch by one and one-half inch. A third but smaller tumor was found on the right shoulder also, and measured one inch by one and one-fourth inch by three-fourths inch. Since no previous report has been found bearing on the incidence of tumors in this fur-bearing rodent introduced from South America, the tissues were prepared for histological study.

An analysis following Bouin-fixation and staining with hematoxylin and eosin presented the following picture. All three are essentially similar tumors, probably representing a multicentric neoplastic effort of adnexal origin. The striking features include mucinous degeneration, extreme mitotic activity, limited invasiveness, and exaggerated sarcomatoid changes in some areas.

These features in human tissue equivalents would point to an adnexal carcinoma of general basal cell type with some of the architecture simulating that of nonpigmented junctional nevo-carcinomatous change.

The architecture is such as to suggest a biology of basal cell type, and one wonders if these lesions might be radio sensitive. Multicentric basal cell tumors of similar type in human beings are not unusual.

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