

D. bellus. Until more tropical fossil records are found, the problem must remain unresolved.

In view of the long residence of *Dasypus bellus* in Florida, it seems surprising that no pre-Rancholabrean records are available elsewhere in North America. Possibly *Dasypus* was restricted to the Gulf Coastal region during most of the Pleistocene. Slaughter (1961) cited two ecological conditions that may have been necessary for this species: (1) winters no more severe than those occurring in North-central Texas today, and (2) rainfall more than 20 inches per year. Thus the distribution of such climatic conditions may have restricted *D. bellus* to Florida and the Gulf Coastal Plain during most of the Pleistocene.

ORDER LAGOMORPHA

FAMILY LEPORIDAE

Sylvilagus sp. GRAY 1867

MATERIAL.—UF 17561: 2 M³; UF 17562: M₃; UF 17563: lumbar vertebra; UF 17564: 3 innominates; UF 17565: 2 femora; UF 17566: 1 tibia; UF 17567: 2 metatarsals.

Hypolagus, *Alurolagus*, and *Sylvilagus* are the smaller lagomorphs common in North American Blancan deposits. Unfortunately, M³ and M₃, the only teeth preserved in the Haile XV A fauna, are not diagnostic (Dawson 1958, Downey 1970). When compared with the *Hypolagus* innominates (Dawson 1958), the Haile XV A specimens possess a less elevated ilial crest, which is probably a more advanced condition. The remainder of the Haile XV A material resembles *Sylvilagus* in size and morphology, but one cannot completely discount reference of this material to *Alurolagus* (Downey 1968, 1970) from the Benson and Curtis Ranch Faunas of Arizona.

A species determination is not possible from the available material. Two living species of *Sylvilagus* occur widely in Florida, *S. palustris* and *S. floridanus*. The genus is presently distributed throughout North America, and also ranges into South America where it is represented by *S. floridanus* and *S. brasiliensis* (Hall and Kelson 1959).

Previously, the principal Blancan records of *Sylvilagus* were from the Broadwater fauna (Barbour and Schultz 1937) and the Sand Draw fauna (Skinner and Hibbard 1972) of Nebraska. Numerous Irvingtonian and Rancholabrean records of this genus are also known throughout North America.