



## XX.—New African rodents and insectivores, mostly collected by Dr. C. Christy for the Congo Museum

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23·3, 22·4; greatest breadth 10·2, 9·7; least interorbital breadth 4·8, 4·5; length of palate 10, 10; postpalatal length 10·6, 10; greatest maxillary breadth 7·2, 7; median depth of brain-case 4·9, 4·8; length of upper tooth-row 10·3, 10·2.

*Hab.* Pungo Andongo, Angola. Altitude 3600 feet.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 4. 4. 9. 30. Original number 30. Collected by the late Dr. W. J. Ansorge.

This species would appear to be most nearly allied to the Nigerian *arethusa*, agreeing with it in general dental characters, but distinguished by its duller upper parts, darker belly, longer and less hairy tail, and flatter skull. *Crocidura luna*, which this species somewhat resembles in colour, is at once distinguished by its much broader skull, with higher and squarer brain-case, and the larger size of the last upper molar.

[To be continued.]

XX.—*New African Rodents and Insectivores, mostly collected by Dr. C. Christy for the Congo Museum.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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DURING the absence of Mr. Dollman in the service of his country I have been entrusted with the examination of the magnificent collection of mammals made by Dr. Cuthbert Christy on the upper waters of the Ituri and Welle during the past two years for the Congo Museum at Tervueren. Although, as might be expected, the majority of the species are similar to those of Ruwenzori and Uganda to the east, and the Cameroons on the west, a certain number are new, and by the kind permission of the Belgian authorities I am authorized to publish short descriptions of them in the 'Annals.' A full list of the collection will, it is hoped, be issued later in the Congo Museum Journal.

Notes on the first instalment of the collection were published last year by Mr. Dollman\*.

*Funisciurus anerythrur bandarum*, subsp. n.

General characters of *F. anerythrur*, but paler, and more such as might be expected in a less heavily forested country. Upper colour, as compared with the "dull greyish olive" of

\* Rev. Zool. Africaine, iv. p. 75.

*anerythrus*, more approaching a "citrine-drab" hue, the tone deader and less glossy than in the typical form. The dull rufous suffusion across rump and hips, as found in *anerythrus*, practically absent, the legs only slightly more fulvous than the body. Light lateral lines much less conspicuous than in *anerythrus*, tending towards obsolescence. Buffy wash on belly-hairs paler, more creamy and less ochraceous than in *anerythrus*.

Dimensions of type :—

Head and body 202 mm. ; tail 193 ; hind foot 43.

Upper molar series, exclusive of  $p^3$ , 7.2.

*Hab.* Upper Shari River and adjacent parts of R. Ubangui. Type from the Ba-mingui River, Upper Shari. Alt. 2000'. Other specimens from Krebidje, R. Tomi, Ubangui, and St. Esprit Mission, on Ubangui above Kemmo.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 7. 7. 8. 89. Original number 23. Collected 10th August, 1905, by Capt. Boyd Alexander on the Alexander-Gosling Expedition. Presented by the Expedition. Six specimens examined.

A paler, less saturate form of *F. anerythrus*. The fine series of true *anerythrus* obtained by Dr. Christy on the Welle for the Tervueren Museum has enabled me to distinguish this Shari subspecies.

*Tatera dichrura*, sp. n.

*T. liodon* group.

Similar in size, proportions, general colour, and cranial characters to *T. ruwenzorii*, but the tail prominently contrasted white on its sides and below, while in *T. ruwenzorii* and the allied species *T. dundasi* and *smithii* the underside of the tail is soiled drabby white or even pale brown. Teeth heavier and bullæ rather larger than in *T. valida*. No blackish patch below ear as in the latter.

Dimensions of no. 1455 (type), measured in skin :—

Head and body 175 mm. ; tail 183 ; hind foot 35.7.

Skull : greatest length 43 ; condylo-incisive length 38.1 ; zygomatic breadth 22 ; interorbital breadth 7.2 ; anterior palatal foramina 7.8 ; posterior palatal foramina 1.7 ; upper molar series 6.6.

*Hab.* Upper Welle R., Congo. Type-locality, Poko.

*Taterillus congicus*, sp. n.

Near *T. emini*, but much darker-coloured ; the dorsal area specially darkened. Size comparatively large, about equalling the largest of the known species. General colour dark tawny brown, the sides and rump clear tawny, the back

tawny brown, darkened by the ends of the hairs being black. Colour of flanks encroaching on the sides of belly, the lateral hairs of the belly being tipped with tawny, and its white area consequently narrowed. Top of muzzle black. Crown tawny brown like back. Hairy band across sole distinct. Tail long, well-tufted, dark brown above, dull drabby or buffy below.

Skull like that of *T. emini*, but slightly larger.

Dimensions of no. 1188 (type), measured in flesh:—

Head and body 135 mm.; tail 170; hind foot 33; ear 20.

Skull: greatest length 36.5; condylo-incisive length 31.2; interorbital breadth 6.6; anterior palatal foramina 6.8; posterior palatal foramina 4.1; upper molar series 5.

*Hab.* Upper Welle. Typical locality, Poko.

This fine *Taterillus* is readily distinguishable from *T. emini* and *T. nigeriae*, its nearest allies, by its much darker and more tawny colour, its contrasted dark dorsal area, and the encroachment on the pure white of the belly by the tawny colour of the flanks.

*Myiomys alberti*, sp. n.

A large species, ochraceous posteriorly, with white under-side.

Size large, the skull as large as in the figure given by Heller of his "*Pelomys roosevelti*"\*. That figure is said to be of the natural size, but is larger than the dimensions given in the description. General colour above coarsely mixed black and buffy, very much as in *M. lutescens*, but posteriorly the colour becomes ochraceous or rufescent, richest at the base of the tail. Sides paler. Under surface and inner sides of limbs strongly contrasted pure white, the hairs white to their bases. Hands and feet buffy on metapodials, the digits whiter. Tail blackish above, buffy on sides, whiter below.

Skull large and strongly built, with heavy muzzle and strongly developed supraorbital ridges. Molars proportionally rather small, not as large as in the smaller *M. lutescens*.

Dimensions of no. 1231 (the type), measured on the skin:—

Head and body (c.) 170 mm.; tail 170; hind foot 35.5.

Skull: greatest length 38.5; condylo-incisive length 35; zygomatic breadth 18; nasals 15.2; interorbital breadth 5; palatilar length 18.2; palatal foramina 7.6 × 2.6; upper molar series 7.6.

*Hab.* Poko, Upper Welle.

\* Smiths. Misc. Coll. vol. liv. p. 1, pl. i. (1916).

Two specimens, collected by Dr. C. Christy.

This *Mylomys* is readily distinguished by the large size of its skull and its white underside, the other species all having grey-based belly-hairs.

I have named this handsome species in honour of King Albert I. of Belgium, whose gallant fight against the misfortunes of his country has been the admiration of all the civilized world.

*Mylomys lutescens*, sp. n.

Size slightly larger than in *M. cunninghami*. General colour yellowish buffy, heavily lined with black. Rump not prominently more ochraceous or rufous, though there are a few ochraceous hairs just round the base of the tail. Sides slightly greyer. Under surface dull creamy whitish, the basal halves of the hairs slaty. Ears brown, not contrasting with the general colour. Hands pale brownish. Feet buffy on the metatarsals, whiter along the edges and on the digits. Tail blackish above, whitish on sides and below.

Skull of same size as in *M. cunninghami*; palatal foramina more widely open; bullæ larger.

Molars distinctly larger than in *cunninghami*, the series very slightly longer, but the teeth decidedly broader and heavier (breadth of *m*<sup>1</sup> 2.6 mm. as compared with 2.3).

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 144 mm.; tail 141; hind foot 34; ear 19.

Skull: greatest length 35; condylo-incisive length 31.8; zygomatic breadth 16.2; interorbital breadth 4.7; palatal foramina 7.2 × 3; upper molar series 8.

*Hab.* S.W. Uganda. Type from Nalasanji. 5000'. Another specimen from Kiduha, Lake Mutanda. 6000'.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 11. 12. 3. 353. Original number 2339. Collected 8th July, 1911, by Robin Kemp.

Distinguished from *M. cunninghami* by its more buffy, less tawny colour, and by the greater breadth of its molars. The difference in tail-length is doubtful, since the tail of the type of *M. cunninghami*, measured by its discoverer and published by me as 102 mm., was probably longer in reality; in its present state it is certainly imperfect terminally.

*Epimys longicaudatus ituricus*, subsp. n.

*Epimys sebastianus*, Dollman, Rev. Zool. Africaine, iv. p. 81 (1914), nec de Wint.

General characters as in the Cameroons *E. longicaudatus*\*,

\* *Dasymys longicaudatus*, Tullberg.

*Mus sebastianus*, de Wint.

When de Winton described his *Mus sebastianus* from the Cameroons *Ann. & Mag. N. Hist.* Ser. 8. Vol. xvi. 11

but size, as gauged by skull, averaging slightly larger. Colour paler, the flanks especially paler and more hoary grey, and the tail generally more or less whitened beneath in its terminal half. In true *longicaudatus* the tail is uniformly brown throughout.

Dimensions of no. 849 (type), measured in the flesh:—

Head and body 158 mm.; tail 225; hind foot 32; ear 20.

Skull: greatest length 39·2; condylo-incisive length 35·4; zygomatic breadth 18·4; nasals 15; interorbital breadth 5·6; palatal foramina 7·5; upper molar series 6·5.

*Localities.* Medje, Upper Ituri (type); Pilipili (Makala), Ituri; Fundi, Ituri; and Poko, Upper Welle. Twelve specimens examined.

#### GRAMMOMYS, gen. nov.

Like *Thamnomys*, but the postero-internal or “*x*” cusp of the first and second molars reduced to a mere connecting-ridge running from the inner cusp of the median lamina to the hinder point of the tooth.

External characters as in *Thamnomys*.

Type. *Grammomys dolichurus* (*Mus dolichurus*, Smuts).

When originally founding the genus *Thamnomys*, I pointed out that it contained two groups of species: (1) the typical *Thamnomys*, with the cusp *x* strongly developed, and (2) those more or less intermediate between *Thamnomys* and *Epimys*, in which this cusp was reduced to a narrow ridge, often hardly perceptible.

With the great increase in the number of known species, I now think it advisable that this intermediate group should have a special name.

To *Thamnomys* proper there only belong the following forms:—*venustus* (type), *rutilans*, *kuru*, and *kempi*; while there go into *Grammomys* the great mass of the known species, including *dolichurus*, *surdaster*, *ruddi*, *baliolus*, *buntingi*, *ibeanus*, *macmillani*, *cometes*, *d.icolor*, *gigas*, *dryas*, and a few others described as subspecies of these.

#### *Deomys christyi*, sp. n.

Size about the same as in *D. ferrugineus*. General colour above paler and more drabby; the ground-colour along the

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he naturally considered the name *longicaudatus* given by Tullberg as antedated by Bennett's *Mus longicaudatus* from S. America. But now that these rats are no longer placed in *Mus*, Tullberg's name, given in conjunction with the incorrect generic term *Dasyomys*, becomes again available for the Cameroons form.

nape and sides of the back near "cinnamon-drab" instead of tawny, the blackish median saddle-mark not so drab or so strongly contrasted. Under surface similarly pure sharply defined white. Limbs rather more completely whitish. Tail equally long and pencilled terminally, but, instead of being dark above quite to the tip as in *D. ferrugineus*, the end for from 1 to 3 inches is white above as well as below, forming a white terminal pencil.

Skull generally similar to that of *D. ferrugineus*, but the supraorbital ridges form more distinct postorbital projections, overhanging the temporal fossæ. In *ferrugineus* the ridges are, as a rule, straight, without projections. Palatal foramina averaging shorter. Opening of posterior nares narrower, the median notch of the palate more sharply pointed.

Teeth as in *D. ferrugineus*.

Dimensions of an adult female from Poko, no. 1134 (type), taken on skin:—

Head and body 148 mm.; tail 205; hind foot 35.3.

Skull: greatest length 36.7; condylo-incisive length 32.5; zygomatic breadth 15; nasals 14; interorbital breadth 6; breadth across brain-case 14; palatilar length 16.7; palatal foramina 5.5; upper molar series 5.8.

*Hab.* Upper Ituri and Upper Welle.

This Eastern representative of the *Deomys ferrugineus* of the Cameroons and Gaboon is readily distinguishable by its duller and paler colour, its white-tipped tail, and the cranial characters above described.

Named in honour of its collector Dr. Christy, who informs me that it is a water-rat living along the edges of the rivers.

*Sylvisorex gemmeus irene*, subsp. n.

Size, proportions, and cranial characters as in true *gemmeus* of the Lado Enclave, but general colour pale olive-brown.

Dimensions of type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 60 mm.; tail 68; hind foot 13.5; ear 9.

Skull: condylo-incisive length 17.2; breadth of brain-case 7.8; upper tooth-row 7.4;  $p^4-m^2$  3.8.

*Hab.* Southern Uganda and Upper Ituri. Type from Kaganbah, Uganda. Alt. 1600 m. Two other specimens obtained by Dr. Christy at Poko, on the Welle, and Medje, on the Upper Ituri.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 11.12.3.56. Original number 2344. Collected 10th July, 1911, by Robin Kemp.

The general colour of true *gemmeus* is said to be "seal-brown," a very different colour from the pale olive-brown of this form.

*Sylvisorex gemmeus infuscus*, subsp. n.

General characters as in true *gemmeus*, but colour of body much darker, near "fuscous" of Ridgway.

Dimensions of type (measured in flesh) :—

Head and body 65 mm.; tail 73; hind foot 13·5; ear 8.

Skull: condylo-incisive length 17·5; breadth of brain-case 7·7; upper tooth-series 7·6;  $p^4-m^2$  3·8.

*Hab.* Bitye, Ja River, S. Cameroons.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 13. 9. 12. 4. Original number 642. Collected 17th December, 1912, by G. L. Bates.

*Erinaceus algirus caniculus*, subsp. n.

Similar in essential characters to true *algirus*, but while *E. a. algirus* of Morocco and Algeria is comparatively dark above and partly or wholly dark below, and *E. a. vagans* of the Balearic Islands (and Spain?) is light above and wholly white below, the present form is even lighter than *vagans* above, but its face and lower surface are partially brown, as in *algirus*.

Spiny area white or cream-white, the dark rings to the spines scarcely showing, their light tips from 5–7 mm. in length. Furry area with the edge bordering the spines brown all along, from the crown backwards along the flanks to the hind limbs. A broad band across the muzzle from cheek to cheek brown. Hands, hinder portion of belly, and whole of hind limbs also brown.

Dimensions of the type, measured in flesh (immature) :—

Head and body 190 mm.; tail 27; hind foot 35; ear 30.

Skull: greatest length 51.

Skull of an old female: condylo-basal length 56·5; zygomatic breadth 37; intertemporal constriction 13·8; palatal length 34; upper tooth-series 27·8.

*Hab.* Eastern Canary Islands. Type from Toston, Fuerteventura.

*Type.* Immature male. B.M. no. 13. 7. 26. 11. Original number 1. Collected 9th May, 1913, by Mr. D. A. Bannerman.

It is not improbable that hedgehogs from the desert regions of Africa opposite the Canaries will also prove to be this pale form of *E. algirus*.