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XXXII.—*Description of a new Species of Perameles from New Britain.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

THE British Museum has recently received from the Godeffroy Museum a single specimen in spirit of a *Perameles* from New Britain, which appears to be undescribed, and for which I propose the name of *Perameles myoides*. It is an adult female.

Size of a rat. The upper parts and sides are densely covered with two kinds of hairs; the principal kind consists of flat, grooved, spine-like hairs of moderate length, and is intermixed with coarse ordinary hairs of a brownish-red colour. The spines on the back are black, those on the sides blackish, with brownish-red tips. Towards the abdomen the spines are greyish, with whitish tips, the lower parts being covered with soft white hair. The cheeks to the ears are greyish.

Tail very short, not quite so long as the head, naked (or, rather, with sparse minute short hairs), grey. Snout comparatively short, half as long as the head; extremity of the snout naked. Ears naked, of moderate size. Eyes small. Feet short, with claws of moderate size.

	in.	lin.
Length of the body and head	8	3
" " tail	2	1
" " head	2	5
" " projecting part of snout	0	3
Distance from end of snout to the eye	1	2
" " " " ear	2	0
Length of eye	0	2
" ear	0	9
Width of ear	0	7
Length of fore foot	0	11
" hind foot	1	9

XXXIII.—*On Thuiaria zelandica, Gray.* By J. J. QUELCH, B.Sc. (Lond.), Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum.

THE species *Thuiaria zelandica* was described by Dr. Gray in Dieffenbach's 'Travels in New Zealand,' published in 1843; and the type specimens, with the name attached in his own handwriting, are in the British-Museum collection.

At the end of his description he states that this species differs from *Th. articulata* in the form of the cells, and he notifies the absence of vesicles (gonothecæ) from his specimens.

While examining the literature on the Thuiariidæ, I was struck with the resemblance which *Th. dolichocarpa*, Allman (as figured in the 'Journal of the Linnean Society,' vol. xii.), bore to the specimens of *Th. zelandica* in its regularly plumose habit with pinnately disposed *opposite* ramuli, a character that is rare in the genus. Through this I was led to a careful examination of Dr. Gray's species, with this result, that *Th. dolichocarpa* is found to be identical with *Th. zelandica*; and therefore the name *dolichocarpa*, established by Prof. Allman, must give place to *zelandica*, established by Dr. Gray more than thirty years previously.

The description as given by Dr. Gray is utterly inadequate; and it is only legitimate to state that it would have been impossible to identify the species by it. The reason for this, however, as it seems to me, is not far to seek. When the New-Zealand species was described, the genus *Thuiaria* had been but very recently established by Fleming for the reception of the two British species, *Th. thuja* and *Th. articulata*; and Dr. Gray had only to give a very brief description in order to distinguish it from the latter; so that, but for the re-examination of the type specimens, *Th. zelandica* would have remained unrecognized, though its occurrence in the New-Zealand fauna has been in reality twice recorded since by different writers.

For the identification of this species, instead of the description by Dr. Gray, that by Prof. Allman must be taken—a description so complete that it would be easy to identify the species with certainty, even if the figure which accompanies it had not been given.

The type specimens, which are apparently young ones, are eight in number, and range from 40 to 90 millim. in height. They were obtained by Dr. Sinclair, R.N., from New Zealand (the exact locality is not stated), and were presented by him to the British Museum in December 1842.

The single specimen described by Prof. Allman under the name *Th. dolichocarpa* was contained in Mr. Busk's collection, and was obtained from the Northern Island, New Zealand, by Dr. Andrew Sinclair—presumably the person referred to above.

The only other record, that I know, of the occurrence of *Th. zelandica* is that of Mr. D'Arcy W. Thompson, in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (5) vol. iii. p. 110. The single specimen there referred to *Th. dolichocarpa*, Allman, was ob-

tained by Dr. Jolliffe at Hokianga, Northern Island, New Zealand, in 1851.

Although there are no gonothecæ on any of the type specimens of *Th. zelandica*, there cannot be any doubt that the description given by Allman applies to this species; for the other characters on which the identification is based are both numerous and definite. A slight exception may, however, be made with reference to the marginal teeth of the hydrothecæ—an exception also noticed by Mr. Thompson in his specimen. These are not uniformly conspicuous. On parts of the pinnæ they are as distinct and as regular as those in Allman's figure; in others they are more or less unequal; while, again, the margin must often be described as being only irregularly dentate, irrespective of the number and size of the teeth. The edge of the mesial keel on the sides of the pinnæ is not always entire, but in parts becomes slightly and irregularly notched, and often divided into two or more raised lines, which are continued on the basal part of the hydrotheca. This condition is more marked on the distal portion of the main stem, where the keel is represented by widely notched raised lines.

Special mention of these minor points has been made with reference to another specimen in the collection, which, though I was at first inclined to describe it as a new species, I think must be regarded as a well-marked variety of *Th. zelandica*. No locality is recorded for the specimen; and gonothecæ are absent; so that it is possible that when this additional information is forthcoming this variety may have to be raised to specific rank. For the present I designate it as *Th. zelandica*, var. *valida*.

Thuiaria zelandica, var. *valida*.

The specimen of this variety consists of a group of more than thirty simple stems arising from a mass of closely interlaced fibres. Its chief difference from the type specimens of the species is its decidedly robust growth. The stems range from 100 to 250 millim. in height; the paired pinnæ, from about 30 to 60 millim. in length, are placed at intervals of from 4 to 5 millim. as compared with pinnæ of about from 10 to 20 millim. at intervals of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 millim. in the type. Its hydrothecæ are nearly half as large again as those of the type; the lateral notches separating them from the hydrocaulus at their upper portion are not so clearly marked; the marginal teeth are generally wider, more rounded and irregular; the mesial keel at the sides of the pinnæ is less prominent and more frequently represented by the raised notched lines continued to the basal part of the hydrotheca—a condition more marked on the distal portion of the main stem than on the pinnæ of the type of the species.