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XVI.—*Notes on Argentine, Patagonian, and Cape Horn*
Muridæ. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE MICE OF THE *HESPEROMYS LAUCHA* GROUP.

OF the small grey field-mice of the *Hesperomys laucha* group there is happily no doubt about the identification of the original species, Azara's "Laucha," as Mr. Perrens sent from Goya, Corrientes, specimens exactly agreeing with Azara's description.

But I am now convinced that the larger form occurring in the same region—the largest of the genus as now restricted—cannot be identified with Rengger's *Mus callosus*, as I had hitherto supposed, and needs a fresh determination. Rengger's animal has too long a tail and too long ears, and, owing to the extreme insufficiency of the description, it should probably be put aside as unidentifiable. Perhaps it was a common rat—to which Rengger compared it—or possibly a *Reithrodon*, a genus in which the pads of the feet are more conspicuous than in *Hesperomys*. In any case, however, the doubt is so great that a guesswork identification is of no use to anyone.

The Goya *Hesperomys* seems to represent a Parana race of the Cordova *H. venustus*, and may be described as follows:—

Hesperomys venustus callidus, subsp. n.

Fur not so long as in true *venustus*, hairs of back about 9 mm. in length. General colour above greyish, very much the colour of *Mus musculus*, darker "mouse grey" anteriorly, more drabby posteriorly, but not so drab as in true *venustus*. Flanks with a slight wash of buffy, decidedly less marked than in *venustus*. Under surface pale grey, the hairs slaty basally, white or greyish white terminally. Ears large, appearing larger than in true *venustus*, rounded, brown anteriorly, greyish posteriorly, the usual postauricular white patch not very conspicuous. Hands and feet white. Tail shorter than head and body, thinly haired, pale brownish above, greyish white on sides and below. Mammæ usually 3—2=10.

Skull stoutly built, with broadly divergent supraorbital edges, which form well-marked ledges over the orbits, but not upwardly projecting beads; the ledges in continuation with distinct ridges running across the parietals.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh) :—

Head and body 115 mm. ; tail 77 ; hind foot 21 ; ear 18.

Skull : greatest length 29·2 ; condylo-incisive length 27 ; zygomatic breadth 16 ; nasals 11·6 ; interorbital breadth 4·5 ; breadth of brain-case 13 ; palatilar length 12·8 ; palatal foramina 6·5 ; upper molar series 4·5.

Hab. Goya, Corrientes. 600'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 98. 12. 3. 12. Original number 106. Collected 10th August, 1896, by R. Perrens. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Fifteen specimens examined.

This mouse may be distinguished from the true *H. venustus* of Cordova by its darker, less drabby colour, shorter fur, and apparently rather longer ears.

"Common. Killed in maize-field." "Trapped in quinta."

—*R. P.*

The Jujuy species, *H. musculus*, is smaller, paler, with shorter hair, and has six or seven pairs of mammæ.

Of the smaller members of the group, the true *H. laucha*, Desm., is an animal with head and body about 70 mm., tail about 50, and hind foot 14–15 mm., as represented by the Goya specimens. And in the south of the Argentine Waterhouse's *H. gracilipes* is very closely allied to it ; but I have not material for a proper comparison.

Between the two, however, in the Buenos Ayres and La Plata region, there occurs a mouse which I collected in some numbers in 1896 and supposed to be the same as the *laucha*, the natives even calling it by that very name.

But comparison shows that it has a conspicuously longer tail, which nearly or quite equals the head and body in length. It may be called

Hesperomys murillus, sp. n.

General appearance very much as in *Mus musculus*. Size about as in *H. laucha*, though old individuals may attain a larger size.

Colour mouse-grey above, slightly more drabby posteriorly, an inconspicuous buffy wash along the sides ; under surface greyish white, the bases of the hairs slaty. Ears of medium size, greyish brown, a well-marked postauricular white patch present. Hands and feet white above ; palms and soles naked. Tail about as long as the head and body, sometimes actually longer, but more commonly a few millimetres shorter ; grey-brown above, slightly darkening terminally, whitish below.

Skull without marked supraorbital ridges or ledges.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh) :—

Head and body 72 mm. ; tail 72 ; hind foot 16·5 ; ear 13·5.

Skull : greatest length 21 ; condylo-incisive length 19·2 ; zygomatic breadth 11·3 ; interorbital breadth 3·3 ; palatilar length 8·8 ; palatal foramina 4·3 ; upper molar series 3·4.

An older specimen measures :—Head and body 91 mm. ; tail 85 ; hind foot 18 ; ear 15. Skull : greatest length 23·6 ; condylo-incisive length 22·4.

Hab. Province of Buenos Ayres ; type from La Plata City, other specimens from Las Talas, Ensenada, and Bahia Blanca.

Type. Young adult male. B.M. no. 6. 4. 6. 26. Original number 148. Collected 8th June, 1896, and presented by Oldfield Thomas. Fifteen specimens.

This mouse is readily distinguishable from *H. laucha* by its conspicuously longer tail, but is otherwise closely like that species. It is the only member of the restricted genus *Hesperomys* in which the tail is proportionally so long.

Like the true *laucha*, this animal is not much of a burrower, but lives about in the grass, and examples may be easily obtained by kicking up loose heaps of hay, thistle-stalks, or other rubbish, under which the mice take refuge. One specimen I have marked as found under a heap of thistle-stalks, in a round nest, the size of a tennis-ball, made of thistle-down. Another was dug up, semi-torpid, in very cold weather, from about 6 inches below the surface of the ground.

There is also a Western form of the same species, which may be named

Hesperomys murillus cordovensis, subsp. n.

General characters as in true *murillus* of La Plata, but the colour paler and less saturate, the back nearly matching "drab" of Ridgway ; sides rather more buffy. Under surface more heavily washed with buffy whitish, the slaty bases of the hairs less evident. Colour of crown especially lighter and more drabby than in true *murillus*.

Skull apparently with a more inflated brain-case than in *murillus*, but the number of fully adult specimens is not sufficient to prove how far this is constant.

Dimensions of type :—

Head and body 85 mm. ; tail 74 ; hind foot 16 ; ear 14. Another specimen measures :—Head and body 80 mm. ; tail 84 ; hind foot 17 ; ear 15.

Skull : greatest length 23·2 ; condylo-incisive length 21·5 ; breadth of brain-case 10·8 ; upper molar series 3·3.

Hab. Near Villa Dolores, Cordova. Type from Yacanto, 900 m.; other specimens from El Carrizal, 1000 m.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 16. 1. 6. 24. Original number 2537. Collected 17th Nov., 1915, by Robin Kemp. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Eight specimens.

THE CAPE HORN *EUNEOMYS*.

Euneomys ultimus, sp. n.

Allied to *E. chinchilloides*, but larger.

General appearance about as in *E. chinchilloides*. Fur long and soft, hairs of back about 12–13 mm. in length. Colour apparently of the same dull greyish fawn as in *chinchilloides*, but all the available specimens are or have been in spirit, by which the colour may have been affected. Under surface drab, the bases of the hairs slaty. Ears of medium length, greyish brown. Hands and feet thick and clumsy, with large palm and sole-pads which nearly touch one another; edges of feet heavily fringed and the back of the soles hairy except along the centre; upper side of both hands and feet white. Claws of normal size, not enlarged as in *E. fossor*. Tail short, thick and fleshy, closely haired, markedly bicolor, brown above and white below.

Skull and teeth quite like those of *E. chinchilloides*, but larger and heavier in all dimensions. On the other hand, they are both smaller and lighter than in *E. mordax* and *fossor*. Upper incisors clearly and distinctly grooved.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 129 mm.; tail 90; hind foot 30; ear 19.

Skull: upper molar series 6.

Dimensions of adult skull in the Paris Museum:—

Greatest length 33 mm.; condylo-incisive length 30·5; zygomatic breadth 20·3; nasals 14×4·6; interorbital breadth 3·8; breadth of brain-case 14; zygomatic plate 3·2; diastema 9; palatilar length 15; palatine foramina 8·5; upper molar series 5·6; breadth of m^1 1·7.

Hab. Cape Horn Islands. Type from St. Martin's Cove, Hermite Island. Other specimens from Orange Bay, Hardy Peninsula, Hoste Island.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 43. 11. 16. 26. Collected in 1842 by Sir James Ross's Antarctic Expedition.

This far southern species may be readily distinguished from the Magellan *E. chinchilloides* by its greater size and heavier teeth.

It was first obtained by the Antarctic Expedition of 1841-2 under Sir James Ross, and, later on, by the French Cape Horn Mission, in whose Zoology (Muridæ written by myself) it is referred to as "*Reithrodon chinchilloides*." I owe to the kindness of Prof. Trouessart the loan again of the adult specimen I determined in 1890, and the transference by exchange of an immature example from the same locality.

The original specimen was, unfortunately, put in some peculiar preserving fluid, which has caused the skull, after extraction, to shrink in drying. Its size, however, before drying was quite the same as in the French specimen, and its teeth are still unaffected.

THE *ORYZOMYS* OF THE EXTREME SOUTH OF SOUTH AMERICA.

When in 1881 I described "*Hesperomys (Calomys) coppingeri*" no assertion as to the position of the type-localities Cockle Cove and Tom Bay was made, but the statement on the labels that these places were in the Straits of Magellan was generally accepted, and influenced later determinations. Now, however, on finding that all other *Oryzomys* from the Straits region are referable to *O. magellanicus*, Benn., including those from Orange Bay, Cape Horn, I have thought it probable that some mistake has been made. On examining Dr. R. W. Coppinger's book, the "Cruise of the 'Alert,'" 1883, it at once appears that Cockle Cove and Tom Bay are not in what is commonly called the Straits of Magellan at all, but are in Trinidad Channel, at the north end of Madre de Dios Island, West Patagonia, in 50° S. lat.

Since *O. coppingeri* is so closely allied to *O. magellanicus* as practically to differ from it in nothing but its greater size, this location is far more natural than in the Straits, near the centre of the range of *O. magellanicus*.

The specimens obtained by the French Transit of Venus Expedition of 1882-3, named by me *Hesperomys coppingeri*, prove on re-examination to be typical *O. magellanicus*, which is evidently common throughout this region.

But a series from further north, in middle Patagonia, equally referable specifically to *O. magellanicus*, prove to have such uniformly longer tails as to deserve subspecific distinction, as follows :—

Oryzomys magellanicus mizurus, subsp. n.

Size and other characters quite as in true *magellanicus*, but the tail averaging about 130 mm. in length, in adults, as compared with about 110-115 in the more southern form.

Colour above olivaceous lined with black, the rump with a dull suffusion of fulvous; under surface dull greyish buffy. In true *magellanicus* the colour is more rufous; but as both of the only two available skins have formerly been in spirit, I believe that they are discoloured, and that no real difference exists.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 100 mm.; tail 131; hind foot 29; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 27·5; condylo-incisive length 24·5; interorbital breadth 3·3; upper molar series 3·8.

Hab. Southern Patagonia. Type from Koslowsky Valley, 46° S., 71° W., Central Patagonia.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 14. 4. 4. 17. Collected 17th October, 1903, by J. Koslowsky. Presented by the Buenos Ayres Museum. Other specimens received in 1903 direct from Mr. Koslowski.

Specimens from the Rio Chica, Upper Santa Cruz, measured by Dr. Allen, would appear to be intermediates between the two forms; but I am inclined to think that, if only the fully adult specimens were included, the tail-length would be as in the Koslowsky form, which is but little further north in the same faunal area.

On the other hand, aged specimens of true *magellanicus*, from Orange Bay in the far south, have the tail at most 115 mm. in length.

THE CAPE HORN AKODON.

As I have thus revised the determination of the Orange Bay *Euneomys* and *Oryzomys*, I have thought it worth while to re-examine the Akodon from the same locality, recorded as "*Hesperomys (Habrothrix) olivaceus*" in my paper of 1890*.

As might be expected, this proves to be different from the *Akodon olivaceus* of Chili, and is clearly referable to *A. xanthorhinus*, Waterh., of which it is, in fact, a topotype, Orange Bay being in the Hardy Peninsula, where Darwin caught the original example. A confusion in the labelling of Darwin's specimens, recently corrected by Dr. Allen, and a consequent misapprehension as to the size of adult *xanthorhinus*, was a contributory cause of the wrong determination.

* Thomas, in Milne-Edwards, Miss. Scient. Cap Horn, vi., Zool., Mamm. p. 28 (1890). The Muridæ part of this work was written by me, and merely translated in Paris. Its misdeterminations, some of which I have now rectified, are therefore not to be credited to my respected and friendly ally; Prof. Alphonse Milne-Edwards.