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LXI.—New Peruvian species of *Conepatus*, *Phyllotis*, and *Akodon*

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broader on all parts of the allied species. This difference is most noticeable along the back, where, instead of dark stripes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide alternating with white ones of half an inch, both light and dark are equally about 1 inch wide. Similarly on the face all the fine light stripes are broader than the dark ones, which latter are, as usual, reddish instead of black. On the ears again the white is increased at the expense of the black. The transverse dorsal markings on the whole are rather more uniform and less irregular than in *E. zebra*, and they are throughout (except in two cases) divided from each other by a well-defined narrow median black line which runs from the withers right through on to the tail. The gridiron-pattern of the loins is essentially similar to that of *E. zebra*, but owing to the alteration in the proportions of the colours would rather be called black markings on a buff ground instead of white ones on a black ground. Upper light rump-stripe nearly twice the breadth of that of *E. zebra*.

Length of the tanned skin, from tip of nose to base of tail, 8 feet 4 inches.

Hab. Mossamedes, Southern Angola. Type from Providencia, near the River Moninho, about 70 kilometres N.E. of Mossamedes. Altitude 300 m.

Type. Male. B.M. no. 0. 9. 12. 1. Shot in May 1900 by Mr. G. W. Penrice.

Mr. Penrice informs me that the country where this zebra is found consists of sand-flats dotted all over with stone kopjes in a state of disintegration, the flats in many cases being thickly strewn with boulders. He had heard of zebras being occasionally found on the top of the Chella range, 2100 metres, but was unable to say to which species they belonged.

He had first met the magnificent animal with which I have associated his name on the Coroca River, 50 kilometres east of Port Alexander, and at an elevation of only 180 m., and was also told that a zebra of this species had been shot some two years ago within a few miles of the sea.

LXI.—*New Peruvian Species of Conepatus, Phyllotis, and Akodon.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Conepatus arequipæ, sp. n.

Closely allied to the Ecuadorean *C. quitensis*, with which it agrees in the great breadth of the white stripes anteriorly. Size rather less than in that animal. Fur of body long and

thick, as befits the high altitude; that of the nape reversed forwards from the withers to the crown. White stripes ending on the loins, not continued on to the root of the tail, as they are in *C. quitensis* and *chinga*. Tail long, thick, very bushy, its basal half black, its terminal half mixed black and white, the hairs of the two colours about equally numerous.

Skull broad and stout, shorter and broader than that of *C. quitensis*, larger than that of *C. rex* and *chinga*. Upper molar comparatively small.

Dimensions of the type (measured by collector in the flesh):—

Head and body 370 millim.; tail 200; hind foot (s. u.) 70, (c. u.) 80; ear 28.

Skull: basal length 70; greatest breadth 48; length of nasals (in middle line) 13; interorbital breadth 25; greatest diameter of *m.*¹ 9·5.

Another skull, that of an aged male, measures:—

Greatest length 87; basal length 73; zygomatic breadth 56; intertemporal breadth 20; mastoid breadth 47; palate length 36·5.

Hab. Sumbay, Province of Arequipa, S. Peru. Alt. 4000 m.

Type. Male (young adult). B.M. no. 0. 10. 1. 2. Original number 1032. Collected 6th June, 1900, by Mr. Perry O. Simons.

This skunk is an intermediate link between *C. quitensis* and *C. rex*. It differs from the former by its smaller size, by the more definite reversal of the nape-hairs, and by the white stripes ending on the loins and not passing backwards to the root of the tail. From *C. rex*, on the other hand, it differs by its rather larger size and by the white stripes being throughout separated from each other by the median black line.

Phyllotis sublimis, sp. n.

A vole-like species of medium size, with short tail and very long fur.

Size medium; proportions rather Microtine, intermediate between those of the medium-tailed *Ph. boliviensis* and the remarkable short-tailed *Ph. Garleppi*. Fur long, extremely soft and fine; hairs of back about 14 millim. in length. General colour dull pale greyish fawn, greyer anteriorly, more distinctly fawn on the sides and posteriorly on the rump. Centre of back browner. Head like back, no darker markings round eyes. Ears of medium length, not long as

in the more typical *Phyllotis*, their anterior halves externally brown, rather darker than the general head-colour; hairs on their inner surface yellowish, an ill-defined patch of yellowish fawn at their bases. Under surface white, not very sharply defined, the bases of the hairs slate. Upper surface of hands and feet silvery white. Tail only about half the length of the head and body, uniformly finely haired, not pencilled; a narrow line along the top ill-defined fawn, the remainder white.

Skull more normal in general shape than the widely expanded skull of *Ph. boliviensis* or the very peculiar one of *Ph. Garleppi*. Nasals narrow, evenly tapering backwards, considerably surpassing the premaxillary processes posteriorly. Interorbital region flat, its edges square but not ridged. Interparietal narrow, strap-like, its anterior edge concave forwards. Anterior zygoma-root slanted backwards. Palatal foramina long; choanæ narrow; bullæ small, much smaller than in *Ph. boliviensis*. Molars normal. Incisors narrow, though not so much so as in *Ph. Garleppi*; pale yellow above and below.

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

Head and body 105 millim.; tail 54; hind foot (s. u.) 21·5, (c. u.) 23; ear 23.

Skull: greatest length 25·3; basilar length 20·2; greatest breadth 14·5; nasals $10 \times 3·6$; interorbital breadth 3·7; breadth of brain-case 12·5; palate length 12·1; diastema 6·9; palatal foramina 6; length of upper molar series 4·7.

Hab. Rinconado Malo pass, above Caylloma, on the Sumbay road, Peru. Altitude 5500 metres (nearly 18,000 feet).

Type. Female. B.M. no. 0. 10. 1. 60. Original number 1104. Collected 18th June, 1900, by Mr. P. O. Simons. Nine specimens examined, all dug out of one burrow.

This most interesting little mouse lives at the highest altitude from which mammalian life has been recorded in the New World, and in the Old is only surpassed in this respect by a few of the Himalayan species. Zoologically it is also of interest, owing to its forming a link between the peculiar short-tailed *Phyllotis Garleppi** and the other members of the genus, so that it tends to resolve the doubt with which I assigned that species to *Phyllotis*.

Akodon amœnus, sp. n.

A medium-sized species with close fur and sharp-edged supraorbital region.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) i. p. 279 (1898).

Probably most nearly allied to, and of about the same size as, *A. punctulatus*, Thos.* Fur rather short, close and almost crisp, the ordinary hairs about 8 millim. in length, though these are mixed on the back with much longer fine hairs 12-13 millim. long. General colour above dull yellowish, rather, but not conspicuously, darker in the middle of the back. Muzzle, cheeks, rings round eyes, and base of ears clearer and deeper buffy yellow. Longer hairs of back brown, tipped with white. Under surface dull whitish, fairly well defined, the bases of the hairs plumbeous except on the chin, where they are white to the roots. Ears rather short, well-haired, of about the same colour as the head. Upper surface of arms and legs, as far down as the metapodials, orange-yellow; fingers and toes white; fifth hind toe (without claw) barely reaching to the base of the fourth. Tail about as long as the body without the head, well-haired, its upper surface dull orange, its lower white.

Skull very different from that of the more typical Akodons, narrow, strongly bowed, its upper outline very convex and its interorbital region sharply square-edged, though not ridged. Nasals short and rather broad. Interparietal very small. Palatal foramina long. Molars of normal Akodont structure.

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

Head and body 100 millim.; tail 75; hind foot (s. u.) 19·5, (c. u.) 21·5; ear 16.

Skull (much damaged): extreme length 26·5; nasals 8·5 × 3·7; interorbital breadth 4·9; breadth of brain-case 11·4; length of upper molar series 4·2.

Hab. Calalla, Rio Colca, near Sumbay, Peru. Altitude 3500 metres.

Type. Male. B.M. no. 0. 10. 1. 77. Original number 1109. Collected 19th June, 1900, by P. O. Simons.

This is an isolated species, apparently only allied to *A. punctulatus*, from which it is distinguishable by its very different colour.

Besides these three species, Mr. Simons's Caylloma and Arequipa collection contains examples of the remarkable *Chinchillula sahamæ*, of *Akodon pulcherrimus*, *Phyllotis boliviensis*, and *Reithrodon pictus*.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xiv. p. 361 (1894).