



## Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 9

Publication details, including  
instructions for authors and  
subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah15>

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Oldfield Thomas

Published online: 02 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Oldfield Thomas (1922) X.—On some interesting hedgehogs from the Persian Gulf , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 9, 9:49, 142-144, DOI: [10.1080/00222932208632647](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222932208632647)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222932208632647>

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X.—*On some interesting Hedgehogs from the Persian Gulf.*  
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some mammals obtained for the Cox-Cheesman collection by Mr. V. S. La Personne, and referred to me for determination, are four hedgehogs—three white and one black—from the little island of Tanb, in the north of the Persian Gulf. Remarkable to say, these hedgehogs, in spite of the small size of the island, belong to two different species, each representative of a different group of the genus *Paraechinus*. This genus tends to divide into two—the species with long pterygoid region, comparatively small bullæ, and little swollen pterygoids, and those with short pterygoid region, large bullæ, and much swollen pterygoids,—the two groups being sufficiently distinct for their respective members to be able to live in company with one another. But it is impossible to divide them as subgenera, for certain species are so absolutely intermediate that one cannot say to which group they belong—notably *P. micropus*, the genotype of *Paraechinus*. From *P. micropus* one is led by imperceptible steps, in the one direction, through *amir* and *blanfordi*, into the “*Macroechinus*” forms, and in the other into the most marked large-bullæ species.

Of the species with small bullæ, the black Tanb hedgehog seems referable to the South and East Arabian *P. niger*, but is separable as a small island subspecies of it :—

*Paraechinus niger seniculus*, subsp. n.

General characters of true *niger*, but size rather smaller, although the feet are nearly as long. Head not black as in *niger*, but nearly wholly grizzled iron-grey, black and whitish hairs being uniformly mixed all over it, neither colour forming any special pattern or markings. Chin whitish, the rest of the under surface black. Ears large, their substance blackish, their hairs white.

Skull as in *niger*, but smaller, with smaller teeth and decidedly smaller bullæ.  $P^3$  present, well developed, though crowded, triangular.

Dimensions :—

Head and body 192 mm.; tail 18; hind foot 34; ear 41.

Skull: condylo-basal length 45·7; zygomatic breadth 26;

palatal length 25·3 ; dental length 23·5 ; combined length of  $p^4$  and two anterior molars 10.

*Hab.* as above.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 21. 12. 3. 2. Original number 1173. Collected 5th April, 1921, by V. S. La Personne for the "Cox-Cheesman collection" (*i. e.*, the collection of H.E. Sir Percy Cox and Major R. E. Cheesman, R.E.). Presented to the National Museum.

It may be noted that although, when describing *P. niger*, Blanford stated that the description was "chiefly taken" from the specimen he had in spirit, he did not formally select that specimen as a type. I therefore venture to do so for him, taking the specimen he referred to—B.M. no. 88. 6. 18. 3—as the lectotype ; and at the same time I may select B.M. no. 74. 11. 21. 25 as a lectotype of his *Erinaceus macracanthus*.

In working out this Taub hedgehog, I have re-examined a black hedgehog from the S.W. corner of Arabia collected in 1902 by Mr. G. W. Bury in the mountainous country behind Aden.

This also proves to be subspecifically separable from true *niger*, and may be called

*Paraechinus niger sabæus*, subsp. n.

Size of type about as in small specimens of *niger*. General colour as in that animal, but the face largely mixed with whitish, the black and white hairs (on the single specimen) so arranged as to form a sort of pattern. Centre of face mostly blackish, then an area above each eye to the crown whitish, and then outside these two areas a black line on each side running up in front of the ear to the base of the anterior spines. Whether this pattern is usually present cannot at present be stated. Ears whitish. Chin and interramia white. Rest of underside, hands, and feet wholly black. Spines ringed black and white as in *niger*. Feet conspicuously smaller than in *niger*, the fore feet only 23 mm. in length, and the hinder equally small in proportion.

Skull quite as in *niger*.

Dimensions (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 174 mm. ; tail 28 ; hind foot 30 ; ear 44.

Skull: condylo-basal length 48·5 ; zygomatic breadth 26 ; palatal length 27 ; dental length 23·3 ; combined length of  $p^3$  and first two molars 11·2.

*Hab.* Mountains north of Aden; type from El Kubar, about 60 miles north of Aden. Alt. 5200'.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 2. 11. 22. 2. Original number 11. Collected 19th June, 1902, by G. W. Bury.

Whether the facial pattern of this specimen is constant or not, the small size of its feet and its whitish head separate it from true *niger*, while the size of its skull distinguishes it from *P. n. seniculus*, which also has a somewhat similar general coloration.

The white Tanb hedgehog, the representative of the large-bulla group of *Paraechinus*, is also a new subspecies of an Arabian form. It may be called

*Paraechinus dorsalis albatus*, subsp. n.

Nearly allied, in all essential characters, to true *P. dorsalis* of the Hadramaut, but smaller and more completely white. Back at first sight appearing wholly pale sandy, but closer examination shows that the spines of the median dorsal area, where in *dorsalis* they are obviously darkened, are here also not completely white throughout their length, having a sub-terminal brown band. Spines of sides mostly light throughout. Muzzle and cheeks brown, with a median brown line running up the forehead in some specimens. Rest of head, ears, shoulders, and under surface pure white—the inguinal region, however, brownish. Hands, feet, and tail also pale brown.

Skull as in true *dorsalis*, but rather smaller. Zygomata comparatively slender. Bullæ of similarly large size, and the pterygoids well inflated. Penultimate premolar absent in all three skulls, this tooth being minute in some specimens of *dorsalis* and absent in others.

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

Head and body 196 mm.; tail 24; hind foot 32; ear 44.

Skull: condylo-basal length 46; zygomatic breadth 27.7; palatal length 24.6; dental length 22.2; length of bulla 10; combined length of  $p^4$  and two anterior molars 11. An old male skull measures 48 mm. in condylo-basal length.

*Hab.* Tanb Island, mouth of Persian Gulf.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 12. 3. 1. Original number 1185. Collected 8th April, 1921, by V. S. La Peronne for the Cox-Cheesman collection. Presented.

Readily distinguishable from *dorsalis* by its far paler colour. Also related to *P. ludlowi*, which may prove to be best placed as a third subspecies of *dorsalis*.