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Oldfield Thomas

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It frequents the stony kopjes of the Witwatersrand, spending the day in holes under rocks and boulders, and coming out to feed at dusk. I have only once found it lying out in the daytime.

Like other *Pronolagi*, it frequently returns to the same spot to defæcate; hence its presence in a locality can often be detected by the piles of droppings on the hill-sides. It is a very retiring species, and seems little known among local sportsmen, although it occurs right up to the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Its short ears, heavy build, and general pose at once recall the European rabbit. It is very fleet on foot; in fact, the "red hare" (a collective name for the members of the genus *Pronolagus*) is regarded by sportsmen as the fastest of the South-African hares.

The uterus of the type specimen contained a single large leveret.

University College, Johannesburg,
September 1907.

LV.—On a new Dormouse from Asia Minor, with Remarks on the Subgenus "*Dryomys*." By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN 1906* I formed a special subgenus to contain the dormouse previously known as *Eliomys nitedula*, Pallas (syn. *E. dryas*, Schr.), and gave it the name of *Dryomys*; but I now find that this name is preoccupied†, and would propose to replace it by *Dyromys*, an anagram of the same word.

Since I formed the subgenus there has been discovered the large but nearly related Central-Asian species to which I applied the specific name *angelus*, and Mr. Gerrit Miller has drawn my attention to additional points of distinction between

* P. Z. S. 1906, ii. p. 348.

† "*Dryomys parvulus*, Tschudi, Fauna Peruana, p. 179, lam. xiii. fig. 1." Philippi, An. Mus. Chile, Murideos de Chile, p. 20 (1900).

Although this is, no doubt, merely an erroneous rendering of *Dryomys*, yet, as it occurs with a specific name attached and a reference both to a description and figure, it seems to be technically too valid as a name to be used again for another animal.

Another of my generic names, *Neotomys*, was used as a misprint for *Nectomys* by Wallace some years before I published it, but there the misprinted term was without any mention of a species or reference to a description, and consequently, viewed simply by itself, was a mere *nomen nudum*, which was not the case with Philippi's *Dryomys*.

this group and *Eliomys*; I am therefore, at his instance, prepared to give it full generic rank.

The new form may be called

Dyromys nitedula phrygius, subsp. n.

Size about as in subsp. *pictus*, therefore rather larger than in European *nitedula*. General colour above a light buffy yellowish, markedly lighter and more yellowish than in either typical *nitedula* of Southern Russia, *Wingei* of Greece, or the Persian *pictus*. Tail lined grey, with a faint tinge of buffy. Bullæ larger than in the European forms.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 100 mm.; tail 85; hind foot 21; ear 14.

Skull: greatest length 26·7; basilar length 20·4; greatest breadth 15; nasals 8; length of upper molar series 3·6.

Hab. Murad Dagh, Ushak Province, Asia Minor (Mount Dindymus, Phrygia, of classical maps). Altitude 7500'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 5. 10. 6. 1. Original number 37. Collected and presented by W. Griffiths Blackler, Esq. Two specimens.

This pretty dormouse may be distinguished from the other forms of *D. nitedula* by its brighter and yellower colour. The Museum has recently received from Mr. Herbert Sykes a specimen nearly topotypical of Blanford's *Myoxus pictus* from Central Persia, which might have been the same as the Asia Minor animal, but proves to be a comparatively greyer and less yellowish form. Specimens quite similar to the latter have also been obtained in the Kurram Valley, N.W. Frontier of India, by Mr. C. H. T. Whitehead, thus forming a considerable extension of the eastward range of this type of dormouse.

LVI.—Notes on an "Octopus" with Branching Arms.

By EDGAR A. SMITH, I.S.O., F.Z.S.

[Plate XVIII.]

A COLLECTION sent home this year by Mr. R. Gordon Smith from Japan contained a very remarkable specimen of an *Octopus* with branching arms. It has been presented by him to the British Museum.

Furcation in the arms of Cephalopods appears to be of