

colour in *S. notatus* in the Malay Peninsula is conspicuously variable, or, rather, dimorphic, rufous and blue*, whereas in Borneo the two colours seem to be respectively restricted to the lowlands and mountains. On one of the first specimens sent, shot in November 1891, Mr. Hose has noted that he had obtained thirteen specimens exactly like it during the month; and since then a considerable number of *S. n. orestes* have passed through my hands, so that its constancy on the mountain is evidently beyond question.

LXV.—*On a new Banded Mongoose from Somaliland.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

MR. F. GILLET has submitted to my examination the skins of a few mammals which were shot by him when accompanying, in a sporting capacity, Dr. E. Donaldson Smith's adventurous collecting expedition into Central Somaliland. Among these there are two examples of a *Crossarchus* belonging to the group of banded species, but evidently quite distinct from anything hitherto described.

It may be called

Crossarchus somalicus, sp. n.

Size of *C. fasciatus* and *gothnehi*. General colour very pale. Dorsal bands almost obsolete. No black tip to tail.

Colour grizzled ashy grey on head and fore quarters. Long hairs of back, where in *C. fasciatus* they are sharply ringed with deep black and bright orange-rufous, indistinctly blackish and dull yellowish white, so that the transverse dorsal bands are almost imperceptible, although they are distinctly present, and not, as in *C. gambianus*, lost in the general grizzling. Under surface very sparsely haired, practically naked in the inguinal region, grizzled grey without any mixture of rufous, except just on the chin. Limbs coloured like body, scarcely darkening terminally, even on the ends of the fingers and toes. Tail as in *C. fasciatus*, except that the end is grizzled like the rest instead of being black-tipped.

Skull in general form very similar to that of *C. fasciatus*. Four median upper incisors very narrow, not touching one another; but how far this is due to wear I am not at present

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1886, p. 77.

able to ascertain. Proportions of molars as shown by the measurements given below.

Dimensions of the type (a well-made skin, ♀):—

Head and body 400 millim.; tail 250; hind foot (c.) 75.

Skull: basal length 64; greatest breadth 39; interorbital breadth 14·3; intertemporal breadth 13·5; palate length from gnathion 35; breadth between postero-external corners of \underline{P}^4 23; greatest diameter of \underline{P}^4 7, \underline{M}^1 6·6, \underline{M}^2 4·4.

Hab. Sunerdorler, Webi Shebeli, Somaliland, alt. 1500 feet.

Native name "Shūk-shūk."

Type killed Dec. 28, 1894.

This striking animal is apparently a desert representative of the Banded Mongooses, being distinguished from all those known by its pallid ground-colour, concolorous tail, and almost obsolete stripes. Compared with other species it may, in addition, be distinguished from *C. zebra* by its larger size and the absence of rufous in the coloration of the under surface. This latter character also separates it from *C. gothnehi*, Fitz., to which I refer specimens in the Museum from Lado and Monbuttu, and which is probably its nearest ally. *C. fasciatus*, its southern representative, is much darker throughout, with a particularly strongly marked black tail-tip.

Mr. Gillett informs me that, on the day above mentioned, he met about fifteen individuals of this species hunting together in a pack, and that when they saw him several of them sat up on their hind legs and looked at him without fear. The ground they were found on was sandy and stony, and covered with thin scrub. Mr. Lort Phillips has also recently seen a large pack of what he believes to be the same species near Berbera.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

February 20, 1895.—Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

‘Notes on the Genus *Murchisonia* and its Allies, with a Revision of the British Carboniferous Species, and Descriptions of some new Forms.’ By Miss J. Donald.

The generic characters of *Murchisonia* as now defined are given in the paper, and the various divisions of the genus are examined,