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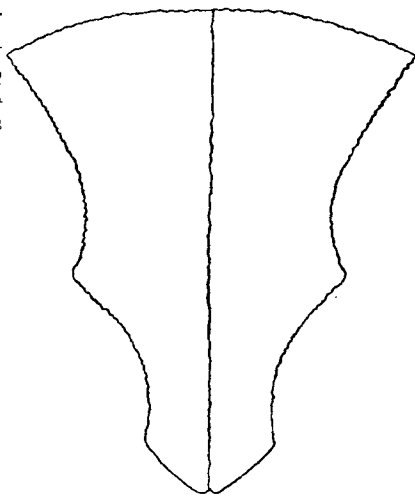
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III.—*Note on the Phascolomys setosus (Gray) and P. niger (Gould). By Prof. M'Coy.*

THE interesting paper on the species of *Phascolomys* by Dr. Murie in the 'Zoological Proceedings' for December 1865 leaves the *Phascolomys setosus* (Gray) in doubt as a probable variety of the common brown *P. platyrhinus*. I have lately obtained a good skin, from South Australia, agreeing with the original external characters of Dr. Gray's *P. setosus*, and I am glad to find that an examination of the skull shows it to be a well-marked and distinct species. I subjoin an accurate outline (natural size) of the nasal bones, which may be compared with the figures of the three other species in Dr. Murie's paper. It will be seen that, in the great width and flatness of the posterior margin of the nasals, the *P. setosus* approaches the *P. latifrons*, being intermediate between it and the common *P. platyrhinus*, but differing from both in the broad double curve of each side forming a salient angle a little in front of the middle of each side.



Outline (nat. size) of the nasal bones of *P. setosus* (Gray).

I also procured lately an adult male and female and young of the *P. niger* of Gould from Yea, in this colony. The female and young were quite black; and the skulls of each of them showed a small semicircular lobe projecting outwards from about the anterior third of each outer margin of the nasal bones (not to be confounded with the more posterior wide angulation produced by the double concave curvature of the outer margins of *P. setosus*); so that, taken with the difference of colour, I at first thought it possible the species might be really distinct from the *P. platyrhinus*. But on carefully comparing all the bones of the skeleton, I could find no other difference; and on getting the skeleton of the male specimen prepared, I found that its skull agreed with the ordinary type of the *P. platyrhinus* in its nasal bones, although the individual was the mate of the female referred to. The colour was not so perfect a black as in the female and young, but had a brownish tinge;

so that the skull, skeleton, and external characters of the fur showed *P. niger* to be only a variety of *P. platyrhinus*, as Dr. Murie has already correctly surmised would be found to be the case. I finally have just had a typical brown ordinary *P. platyrhinus* prepared for the Melbourne Museum, and have found in it the small lateral lobes on the outer margin of the anterior third of the nasals, which I first noticed in the so-called *P. niger*, and of which there was no trace in five skulls previously prepared; so that there can no longer be the least doubt of the black and brown individuals being only varieties of one species. With the *P. setosus*, we have thus four well-marked living wombats, and at least two fossil extinct ones.

While referring to Dr. Murie's paper above quoted, I may take the opportunity to remark, in reply to his observation that, in my description of *P. latifrons* published by Mr. Gould, I did not lay sufficient stress on the peculiarity of the softness of the fur, that I have there contrasted it with the coarse hair of the common wombat in the strongest manner, by comparing it to the fur of the English wild rabbit in this respect.

Melbourne, Oct. 26, 1867.

IV.—*Note on the Existence of Gigantic Sea-Anemones in the China Sea, containing within them quasi-parasitic Fish.*
By Dr. C. COLLINGWOOD.

THE most remarkable circumstance which I met with when wading upon a submerged reef in the China Sea was the discovery of some Actiniæ of enormous size, and of habits no less novel than striking. I observed in a shallow spot a beautiful large convoluted mass, of a deep blue colour, which, situated as it was in the midst of magnificent corals of every colour of the rainbow, I supposed also to be a coral; but its singular aspect induced me to feel it, when the peculiar tenacious touch of a sea-anemone made me rapidly withdraw my hand, to which adhered some shreds of its blue tentacles. I then perceived that it was an immense Actinia, which when expanded measured fully 2 feet in diameter. The tentacles were small, simple, and very numerous, of a deep blue colour; and the margin of the tentacular ridge was broad and rounded, and folded in thick convolutions concealing the entrance to the digestive cavity.

While I was standing breast-high in the water, admiring this splendid specimen, I noticed a very beautiful little fish, which hovered in the water close by, and nearly over, the Anemone. The little fish was 6 inches long, the head bright