



LXX.—Description of a new Uromys from the Solomon Islands

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LXX.—*Description of a new Uromys from the Solomon Islands.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.*Uromys sapientis*, sp. n.

Size intermediate between that of the large *U. macropus*, *aruensis*, &c., and the small *U. cervinipes* and *Bruinii* group. Fur close and coarse, the woolly hairs about 13 millim. long on the back, the straight ones about 10–12 millim. longer. General colour above uniform cinnamon-brown, mixed with the blackish tips to the longer hairs. Sides scarcely paler. Belly “pinkish buff,” not very sharply defined laterally. Head like back, an indistinct brownish ring round the eyes. Whiskers long, fine, brown. Ears very short, laid forward in a spirit-specimen they barely reach halfway towards the eye; practically naked, their substance grey. Outer aspect of arms and legs like sides, inner like belly; upper surface of metapodials whitish buffy, a darker patch on their outer halves; digits practically naked. Soles broad, smooth, naked, the pads broad and low; fifth hind toe without claw reaching to the middle of the second phalanx of the fourth. Tail with its basal inch thickly woolly, like the body, then evenly and abruptly naked; its rings of scales running eight or nine to the centimetre; its tip smooth and shining above, perhaps slightly prehensile, as in *Pogonomys*; its colour uniform dull brown. Mammæ 0—2=4.

Skull broad and low, the zygomata well expanded; nasals narrow, constricted mesially; interorbital region smooth, concave, its edges sharp, and passing outwards behind the well-marked postorbital projections, behind which well-defined ridges run backward to the outer corners of the interparietal. Anterior edge of zygoma-root not projected forward. Palatal foramina short, as usual, ending half their own length in front of m^1 . Palate ending behind opposite the hinder end of m^2 . Bullæ well inflated. Teeth as usual.

Dimensions of an adult female in spirit (not the type):—

Head and body 250 millim.; tail 250; hind foot 51; ear 17.5.

Skull of the type: upper length 52.5; basilar length 44; zygomatic breadth 28.7; nasals 18×6.3 ; interorbital breadth 8.3; breadth across postorbital processes 15; interparietal 7.5×15 ; palate length 24; diastema 15; palatal foramina 7.3; length of upper molar series 11.

Hab. Ysabel Island, Solomon group.

Type. Male; skin. B.M. no. 2. 5. 1. 4. Collected

6th July, 1901, by Mr. A. S. Meek. About ten specimens examined.

This fine rat is widely different from any species described as a *Uromys*, and could only be confounded with Ramsay's "*Mus salamonis*"*, which might be also a member of the present genus. But the colour of *salamonis* is said to be "light ashy grey," and the skull, though in general very like that of *U. sapientis*, has a distinctly projecting anterior zygoma-root.

LXXI.—*The "Cahowe" of the Bermudas.*

To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'

GENTLEMEN,—My attention has only just been called to an article in your January number on the cahowe, a supposed extinct bird of Bermuda. The writer categorically asserts that it was not a shearwater and that it is extinct. I venture, on the contrary, to maintain that it is a shearwater and was certainly not extinct a few years ago. I was resident in Bermuda for three years, and the cahowe was well known by that name to the fishermen. Before I obtained the bird I mentioned it to Sir W. Jardine ('Contrib. to Ornithology,' 1849, p. 79). I, with the late Sir J. Campbell Orde, afterwards obtained both birds and eggs near Cooper's Island; so did Col. H. M. Drummond-Hay, Lieut.-Col. Wedderburn, and afterwards Capt. Trotter, of Dereham Park, and (in 1874) Capt. Reid, R.E. Neither Mr. Hurdis nor Mr. Jones ('Naturalist in Bermuda,' p. 94) ever doubted for a moment that the cahowe was *Puffinus obscurus* (Gm.), with which Mr. Salvin rightly identifies *P. Auduboni*. The ten reasons assigned by Mr. Verrill for the cahowe not being a shearwater are most of them proofs that it is—*e. g.*, that it breeds in holes or burrows, that it only visits the island in the breeding-season, that it is nocturnal and rarely seen in the daytime, that it lays white eggs (as do all the petrel tribe, but none of the auks), that it has a sharp bite, &c. &c. &c. Then he informs us that "the shearwaters . . . are inedible." On the contrary, the young in many places are highly esteemed for food. Willoughby, 250 years ago, described how they were captured and sold for food in the Isle of Man. Numbers are caught

* P. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vii. p. 43 (1882).