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Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 5

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah11>

XXII.—Description of a new Gerbillus from sind

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Published online: 09 Oct 2009.

To cite this article: James A. Murray (1886) XXII.—Description of a new Gerbillus from sind , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 5, 17:99, 246-248, DOI: [10.1080/00222938609460138](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938609460138)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222938609460138>

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found also in *Gyaritus* and *Axinyllium*, from which this genus is differentiated in the two lobes of the eyes being completely disconnected. The type of the genus has perhaps more the facies of *Oloessa*, which, however, belongs to another group; it is more or less covered with a silky pubescence, and, especially beneath the antennæ, with long erect setæ, the legs included.

Zeargyra vidua.

Z. modice robusta, nitida, atra; elytris dimidio basali et apice læte argenteis, basi tuberculis duabus fasciculatis munito. Long. 2¼ lin.

Hab. North Borneo.

Moderately stout, glossy black, the elytra with the basal half and large portion of the apex covered with a close silvery pubescence; head not broader than the prothorax, flat between the antennary tubers, which are widely apart; antennæ longer than the body, the third joint not quite so long as the fourth, but both longer than the scape; prothorax slightly longer than broad, narrowing towards the base and rather coarsely but not strongly punctured, the middle of the disk with two well-marked, nearly erect, approximate spines, the spines at the sides pointed and conical; scutellum transverse, rounded behind; elytra subovate, declivous towards the apex, striate-punctate, with two elevated fasciculate tubercles at the base, behind which the elytra are slightly depressed; legs with a white pubescence, the claws brownish.

XXII.—*Description of a new Gerbillus from Sind.* By JAMES A. MURRAY, Curator, Kurrachee Municipal Museum.

Gerbillus Gleadowi, sp. nov.

Fur soft and long, rufous-fawn above, white below, the two colours sharply defined; fur of the upper parts rufous-fawn for one third the terminal length and slaty to the base. A broad supercilium in front and the sides of the face white, limiting the rufous-fawn on the nose to a narrow band. A small rufous cheek-patch present. Ears slightly concave in front near the tip and convex at the base; the tip is rounded off; behind they are convex; laid forward they reach halfway to the hind edge of the eye; on the outside they are clad with short

rufescent brown hairs, and on the inside with greyish; on the margin there is a decided fringe of brown hairs, except at the base in front, where the hairs are slightly longer and white. Whiskers white, except the upper series of 3-4 on each side, which are brown; the longest is 2 inches in length. Feet, tarsi, and greater portion of thighs white. Thumb of fore foot with a nail; only a single foot-pad; no pads on the hind feet, the palmar surfaces of which, as well as the fore feet, are covered with hairs. Tail uniform pale isabelline, slightly paler or nearly white below near the tip. Pencil brown above, white below. Mammæ four pairs, two inguinal and two pectoral. Upper incisors grooved.

The following are the measurements of the nine specimens collected:—

	1. ♂.	2. ♀.	3. ♀.	4. ♂.	5. ♀.	6. ♂.	7. ♂.	8. ♀.	9. ♀.
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
Head and body.....	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$3\frac{3}{8}$	3	$3\frac{3}{8}$	3	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Tail to end of vertebræ	$5\frac{1}{4}$	5	$4\frac{5}{8}$	5	5	5	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	5
Pencil	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Height of ear from orifice ..	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
Breadth of ear	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Fore foot and claw	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
Hind foot and claw	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$
Longest whisker	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{7}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{7}{8}$	2	$1\frac{5}{8}$	$1\frac{5}{8}$

This species was collected by Mr. F. Gleadow, my indefatigable correspondent, at a place called Beruto, 15 miles S.W. of Rehti, in the Mirpur Drahrki Taluka of the Rohri district in Upper Sind. Mr. Gleadow says that the specimens were all got in one place, far away from any village, and that the species burrows in sand-hills under the roots of *Calligonum polygonoides* and *Leptadenia Jacquemonti*.

The species appears to me to be near *Gerbillus nanus*, Blanford (Zool. E. Persia), but differs from it in having fairly clad ears, well clad palmar surface of both fore and hind feet, as well as in size. The head and body are longer than in *nanus*, and the tail also, which measures in some as much

as $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches without the pencil. The ears, again, are smaller (0.43×0.25 against 0.45×0.3). The fore foot too is much smaller, while the hind foot measures 1.12 inch against 0.9.

P.S.—The following are the dimensions of the skull of no. 2 :—

	inch.
Length from occiput to end of nasal bones	1.12
Length from lower margin of foramen magnum to alveolar border of premaxillaries	0.90
Breadth across zygomatic arches	0.58

The nearest described form appears to be *G. hirtipes*, Lataste, from Algeria, which, to judge by the description, differs in having the tail throughout tawny above and white below.—W. T. B.

XXIII.—*A Reply to M. de Betta's Remarks on "Rana temporaria."* By G. A. BOULENGER.

THROUGH the kindness of M. de Betta, I have recently received a pamphlet entitled "*Sulle diverse forme della Rana temporaria in Europa e più particolarmente nell'Italia*" (Venezia, 1885), in which he expresses it as his opinion that the various forms of European land-frogs hitherto distinguished are specifically identical. After all that has been published to demonstrate that the term "*Rana temporaria*," in its old sense, is merely collective and embraces a number of species characterized not only by form and coloration, but by important anatomical and physiological peculiarities, M. de Betta's views do not seem to me to be in accordance with the progress of science ; and as the above-cited paper, from the pen of the veteran Italian herpetologist, is likely to influence many who have as yet failed to form an opinion on the subject, or to encourage superficial treatment of the question of species and their geographical distribution, I cannot allow it to pass without a reply.

At the present day, to mention from any given locality in the Palaearctic Region "*Rana temporaria*," in its widest sense, is worth as much as to record "the Lizard" or "the Newt." I am not afraid of going too far in stating that the differences between the forms of "*Rana temporaria*" are as great as those between *Lacerta ocellata*, *L. viridis*, and *L.*