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XXXV.—*Notes on Agoutis, with Descriptions of new Forms.*  
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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IN his list of duplicates for sale\* Lichtenstein described, in 1823, an agouti as follows:—"Dasyprocta Azaræ n. *Acouti* Azar. *Differt a Cav. Aguti Auct. potissimum tergo concolore, pilis basi albis vestito.* E provincia San. Paulo Brasil. . . . E. (i. e. *specimen eximium*) Thlr. 7."

He here describes a specimen with a definite locality—São Paulo,—and it is clear that the name must be applied to the species of that locality, with his specimen as type, whether the "*Acouti*" of Azara is or is not of the same species.

In 1841, however, Lund†, finding that the Lagoa Santa agouti was larger than the Paraguayan, with a longer tail, described the former as new under the name of *D. caudata*, and applied the name *D. azaræ* to the latter.

This allocation of names has been followed by Waterhouse and other authors to the present time, though the distinction of the two forms has not been generally recognized.

Now, however, I find that the two species are undoubtedly distinct, and since the name *D. azaræ* must certainly be applied to the São Paulo animal, with *D. caudata* as a synonym, the Paraguayan one is left without a name.

It may be called

*Dasyprocta felicia*, sp. n.

Size decidedly less than in *D. azaræ*. Colour on the whole as in that animal, but the yellow of the fore-back and flanks is paler and greyer, so that there is less contrast between these parts and the greyish rump. Under surface with a distinct mesial line of yellow or white running from chest to inguinal region. Tail shorter than in *azaræ*, little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length.

Skull conspicuously smaller than that of *D. azaræ*.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body 490 mm.; tail 15; hind foot 100; ear 84.

Skull: greatest length 102; condylo-incisive length 86.4;

\* Verz. Doubl. p. 3 (1823).

† K. Dansk. Vid. Selsk. viii. p. 287 (1841).

zygomatic breadth 48.5; nasals 35.6; interorbital breadth 29.4; palatilar length 40; upper tooth-series 17.7.

*Hab.* Paraguay. Type from near Concepcion.

*Type.* Old female. B.M. no. 98.7.3.7. Collected by Mr. T. Insley. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Five specimens examined.

The specific term is suggested by Don Felix d'Azara's Christian name.

Cope's *D. aurea* from Chapada, Matto Grosso, stated by Allen to be founded on an albino, is, as indicated by some specimens from that place in the British Museum, barely distinguishable subspecifically from *D. azaræ*.

The British Museum has possessed for many years an undetermined agouti from Santa Catherina—a locality further south than any place from which a *Dasyprocta* has been recorded. This specimen appears to represent a new subspecies of its nearest geographical neighbour *D. azaræ*, and may be called

*Dasyprocta azaræ catrinæ*, subsp. n.

General colour paler and greyer than in true *azaræ* of São Paulo, the fore-back and sides scarcely tinged at all with yellow; the rump also yellowish, not hoary grey as is usual in *azaræ*. But the most marked character is that the long hairs of the rump, instead of being ringed with brown and whitish to the base, are straw-yellow for the greater part of their length, an inconspicuous brown ring quite close to the base and one or two others near the tip alone interrupting the yellowish colour, which is unbroken for some 40–70 mm. on the longer hairs. Under surface grizzled greyish laterally, yellowish white mesially. Feet grizzled black and yellow, darker terminally, as in *azaræ*.

Skull of type, immature ( $p^4$  just changing): greatest length 102 mm.; condylo-incisive length 87; upper tooth-row 18.8.

*Hab.* Santa Catherina, S. Brazil.

*Type.* Immature male. B.M. no. 46.6.1.29. Purchased of Parzudaki.

The nearest locality to Santa Catherina from which we have *D. azaræ* is Roça Nova, Parana, where M. Robert collected a series. His specimens, however, show no approach to the peculiar coloration of *D. a. catrinæ*.

*Dasyprocta variegata boliviæ*, subsp. n.

Most nearly allied to *D. v. yungarum*, but conspicuously lighter in colour. General colour of fore-back, when seen from a distance, near "buckthorn-brown" of Ridgway, the hairs ringed with black and ochraceous. Long hairs of rump black, with narrow ochraceous tips, which soon wear off, leaving the hairs wholly black. Middle line of under surface vivid ochraceous, not so sharply defined laterally as in *yungarum*. Upper surface of hands and feet like body, grizzled ochraceous and black, not wholly black as in other members of the *variegata* group.

Dimensions of the type:—

Hind foot 104 mm.

Skull: zygomatic breadth 53; nasals 41.3; palatilar length 43; upper tooth-series 19.5.

*Hab.* Southern Bolivia. Type from Yacuiba, on the Argentine boundary south of Caiza. Other specimens from Santa Cruz de la Sierra and its neighbourhood.

*Type.* Old female. B.M. no. 7. 8. 2. 22. Original number 26. Collected 15th August, 1905, by J. Steinbach. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

The agoutis from Southern Bolivia are readily distinguishable by their generally light colour and their grizzled ochraceous feet, all those from Peru and north-westwards having black feet.

Among the specimens I refer to this form are some at least of those from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, collected by Bridges and determined by Waterhouse as *D. azaræ*. One of them is quite like the Yacuiba specimen, while another has less black hairs on the rump. But owing to the histories and individual localities of Bridges's specimens not having been preserved, it is difficult to know quite what this variation means.

One specimen also from Charuplaya, Bolivia, collected by P. O. Simons, has the general colour and light feet of this form, while another from the same place is closely similar to true *yungarum*, so that that would appear to be about the region where the two forms pass into one another.

Allen's *D. v. urucuma*\* from Corumbá, Matto Grosso, further to the east, appears to be darker and has the "hind feet deep black" as in ordinary *D. variegata*.

\* Bull. Am. Mus. xxxiv. p. 634 (1915).

Nearly seventy years ago an agouti was collected on Gorgona Island, off the west coast of Colombia, by Capt. Kellett and Lieut. Wood, during the cruise of H.M.S. 'Pandora.' The specimen was registered as "*Dasyprocta aguti*," and, being immature and not in good condition, has not hitherto been re-examined.

Now, however, on comparison with skulls of similar age of the allied species I find that it is so much smaller as to deserve specific distinction.

*Dasyprocta pandora*, sp. n.

General colour-characters of *D. variegata*, but size much smaller.

Fore-back and sides grizzled yellow and black, the yellow more prominent on the middle back; lengthened rump-hairs black, with yellowish tips. Feet black, with a few fine yellow hairs intermixed.

Dimensions of the type:—

Hind foot (dry) 90 mm.

Skull: greatest length 89; zygomatic breadth 42.5; nasals 31; palatilar length 33.5; combined length of  $mp^4$ ,  $m^1$ , and  $m^2$  13.2;  $mp^4$ , length 4.9, breadth 4.

*Hab.* Island of Gorgona.

*Type.* Immature male. B.M. no. 50.1. 26. 29. Collected and presented by Capt. Kellett and Lieut. Wood, of H.M.S. 'Pandora.'

No doubt this is a diminished insular representative of *D. variegata*. Its reduction in size is shown by the fact that skulls of that animal of about the same age are upwards of 105 mm. in length, while the three teeth above measured may together be 15 mm. in length,  $mp^4$  being  $5.6 \times 4.3$ , and the other teeth also conspicuously more bulky.

That this animal is a genuine native of Gorgona, about which I had always had a doubt, has been proved by Mr. Bangs, who, in 1908, included a specimen of it in his list of the mammals of the island\*. His specimen was also young—too young for certain determination,—and he only provisionally referred it to *D. variegata*.

The other two land-mammals obtained by him—*Cebus curtus* and *Proechimys gorgonæ*—were both described as new.

\* Bull. Mus. Harvard, xlii. p. 89.