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### XXVIII.—A new genus for *Sciurus poensis* and its allies

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*Type.* Adult skull (no doubt male) without skin. B.M. no. 15.12.1.26. Original number 207. Collected and presented by Mr. K. G. Gairdner.

This binturong differs so immensely in size from the ordinary *Arctictis* that no detailed comparison is needed in describing it as new. It affords a curious parallel to the giant *Arctonyx* of the same region—*A. dictator*—discovered by Mr. Robinson, which was also obtained by Mr. Gairdner at Sai Yoke.

I have much pleasure in connecting this fine species with the name of its discoverer, who has been making great efforts to improve our knowledge of the Siamese mammal fauna. It is to be hoped that he may presently be able to obtain a complete specimen of *Arctictis gairdneri*.

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XXVIII.—*A new Genus for Sciurus poensis and its Allies.*  
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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WHEN writing a revision of the genera of African squirrels in 1909\*, I included, with much hesitation, three African species in the genus *Sciurus*, otherwise Holarctic only. Since then, however, the important characters which may be drawn from the structure of the penis-bone, or baculum†, have been discovered, and it is now evident that these three species should not be included in *Sciurus* (which has a peculiar and characteristic hand-like baculum), but need distinction as a new genus.

For *Sciurus poensis*, one of the three species referred to, has a minute, perfectly simple baculum about 2 mm. in length, conspicuously different from that of *Sciurus*, but similar to that found in several other African squirrels, among whom no complicated bacula like those of *Sciurus* occur, still less any compound ones such as have been described in *Callosciurus* and *Tomeutes*.

For the new genus I would suggest the name *Æthosciurus*, with genotype *Æ. poensis* (*Sciurus poensis*, A. Smith), and would include in it also *Æ. lucifer* and *ruwenzorii*.

\* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) iii. p. 467 (1909).

† See Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xv. p. 383 (1915).

*Æthosciurus* would appear to be most nearly allied to *Heliosciurus*, but may be distinguished by its possession of two upper premolars. As already explained in my previous paper, its basin-shaped lower molars separate it from *Paraærus* and *Funisciurus*, and its more normal skull from the peculiar genus *Myrsilus*.

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XXIX.—Notes on Bats of the Genus *Histiotus*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE members of the genus *Histiotus* are all extremely closely allied to each other, their respective sizes, skulls, and teeth being almost identical, and the only distinguishing characters lying in the colour and the size and shape of the ears. Even these latter are both somewhat variable and very difficult to use for discrimination owing to the effect on them of shrinkage, whether in spirit or dry.

In 1875 \* Peters wrote an account of the genus which was wonderfully good, considering the comparatively few specimens he had available. He gave excellent figures of the ears of certain of the forms, these figures being referred to below. In the case of the extreme southern species, however, *H. magellanicus*, the ears are drawn much too small, owing to their having been drawn from dried specimens.

As Peters pointed out, the Brazilian species, *H. velatus*, Geoff., is readily distinguishable from all the others by its more triangular ear, which has a prominent rounded lobe in front projecting forwards, as shown in his plate, figure 1, and is connected with its fellow of the opposite side by a transverse band about 3 mm. in height.

In colour *H. velatus* is very dark brown, with comparatively dark ears and membranes. Its skull is a little narrower than in other species, with narrower interorbital regions and palate, but the difference is really very slight, considering the essential difference in the shape of the ears.

\* MB. Ak. Berl. 1875, p. 785, plate.