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## EXPLANATION OF PLATE VI.\*

Fig. 1. *Amphidromus sumbaensis* \*.

Fig. 2. — *floresianus*.

Fig. 3. — *consobrinus*.

Figs. 4, 4 a, 4 b. *Trochomorpha andamanica*.

Figs. 5, 5 a, 5 b. — *pseudosanis*.

Fig. 6. *Porphyrobaphe approximata* \*.

Figs. 7, 7 a. *Helix* (*Xenothauma*) *Baroni* †.

Fig. 7 b. Ditto \*. Nucleus.

Figs. 8, 8 a, 8 b. *Bulimulus Baroni*.

Fig. 9. *Oleacina Underwoodi*.

### XIX.—On some small Mammals from Salta, N. Argentina.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

DR. C. SPEGAZZINI, the well-known fungologist of La Plata, has been good enough to present for division between the Buenos Ayres and British Museums a small collection of Bats and Rodents made by him in Salta during the last southern summer season (Dec. 1896–Feb. 1897).

Among these specimens there are representatives of two new mice, now described, while the other species obtained also deserve some mention.

#### 1. *Vespertilio*, sp.

a-c. Upper Cachi.

d. Viña.

e, f. Pampa Grande.

This fawn-coloured *Vespertilio* I can identify with no species contained in Dobson's Catalogue; but it may perhaps prove to be one of Azara's species, and I do not therefore care to describe it as new.

A full identification of Azara's bats and murines is very much needed before Argentine specimens, whether from the north or south, can be satisfactorily determined. Thanks to the collections made by Messrs. Perrens, Borelli, Spegazzini, and others, I hope soon to be in a position to publish an identification of all the species described by the Spanish author referred to.

\* I take this opportunity of figuring some of the species described by me in this Magazine (ser. 6, vol. xviii., July 1896).

† Dr. Kobelt, in the Conch. Cab. ed. ii., *Helix*, p. 843, pl. xxviii. figs. 4–6, places this species in the subgenus *Bostryx*; he evidently did not read the original description or examine his specimen with a lens, as he makes no mention of the remarkable sculpture of the nucleus of *X. Baroni*, which separates it from *Bostryx* and other genera.

2. *Nyctinomus brasiliensis*, Geoff.

a-c. Cafayati, Salta.

It seems probable that this common bat is Azara's "Petite Chauve-souris obscure" (Chauve-souris neuvième), to which, fortunately, Geoffroy did not give a special name, referring it (wrongly) to his own *Molossus obscurus*. That Azara's bat was a *Nyctinomus* is clear from his statement that "La lèvre supérieure a des plis verticaux."

3. *Phyllotis griseoflavus*, Waterh.

a. Upper Cachi, Salta.

b. Lower Cachi.

This handsome rat was first recorded from the north (Juju) by Matschie, who was, however, naturally doubtful of its identity with a species described from such a distant locality as Rio Negro, Patagonia, the type locality of Waterhouse's animals. After the most careful comparison of these Salta examples with the type, and with a skin from Catamarca in the Museum collection, I am still of the opinion I expressed when Dr. Matschie's specimen was sent to London for examination, that the northern and southern forms cannot be separated.

Moreover, the examination of several recent collections shows that there is a most remarkable affinity between the faunas of the extreme north-west part of Argentina, including the neighbouring parts of Bolivia, even up to considerable altitudes, and that of North-eastern Patagonia, so far at least as Bahia Blanca and the Rio Negro are concerned. Thus I have lately seen a small collection from Bahia Blanca, and among them is a cavy which I cannot distinguish from *Cavia boliviensis*, Waterh., first described from the high land between Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia, while there is in the same collection an example of *Oryzomys laucha*, Desm., whose typical locality is Paraguay, but specimens of which were obtained by Dr. Borelli at Tala, Salta, and other localities in the present region. The Museum possesses both the cavy and the *Phyllotis* from Catamarca, and the Laucha has been taken all down the Parana to its mouth, where, at La Plata, I have found it abundant.

It would seem therefore that many of the Pampas animals extend north and south for a very great distance without any appreciable modification, ascending in the north to latitudes at which they no doubt find a very similar climate to that of the lowlands in the southern parts of their range. For this reason, when working out specimens coming from Bolivia, Argentina, or Patagonia, it must not be too

readily presumed that specimens from one end of the district are distinct as a matter of course from those described from the other—a presumption which, allowing for the great difference in altitude and position, would in other parts of America generally be quite justifiable.

#### 4. *Akodon Spegazzinii*, sp. n.

*a, b.* Lower Cachi.

*c.* Pampa Grande.

A medium-sized *Akodon* of a generally fulvous colour, above and below.

Size rather smaller than *A. olivaceus*. Fur fairly long, soft and woolly; the underfur about 10 mm. long on the back. General colour dull grizzled fulvous rufous, quite unlike that of the greyish *Akodons* of the *olivaceus* group. Longer hairs as usual black. Fulvous body-colour clearer on sides, and passing almost unaltered on to the belly, which is scarcely lighter than the flanks; hairs round the anal region brighter fulvous. Throughout, above and below, the basal three fourths of the hairs are dark slate-coloured. Ears fairly large, rounded, laid forward in a spirit-specimen they reach about 2 millim. short of the posterior canthus; well clothed with short fulvous hairs. Hands and feet pale whitish fulvous above; claws long and strong, but not exaggerated as in the *A. megalonyx* group. Palms and soles naked, with the pads 5–6 as usual; fifth hind toe without claw reaching to the end of the first phalanx of the fourth. Mammæ 2—2=8. Tail rather long for an *Akodon*, finely haired, blackish above, yellowish white on the sides and below.

Skull strongly built, though the zygomata are not very widely expanded. Nasals long, rather narrow. Interorbital region smooth, slightly convex, its edges square but not ridged. Interparietal very small, narrow from before backwards, almost as broad laterally as in the middle line. Palatine foramina large and open, reaching backwards past the middle of  $m^1$ . Posterior narial fossa narrow, the palatal edge nearly a millimetre behind  $m^3$ .

Incisors dark orange above, pale yellowish below. Molars strictly Akodont.

Dimensions of the type, measured in spirit before skinning (female):—

Head and body 92 millim.; tail 71; hind foot, without claws, 20; ears 14. (The inclusion of the claws would increase the hind foot measurement by about 2.5 millim.)

Skull: basal length 22.5, basilar length from henselion 20.5; nasals  $9.6 \times 3$ ; interorbital breadth 4.5; interparietal  $7 \times 1.4$ ; palate length from henselion 11.3; diastema 7.2;

palatine foramina  $5.8 \times 2.1$ ; length of upper molar series 4.3.

*Type.* B.M. no. 97.5.5.14, from Lower Cachi.

I can find no described species to which this mouse could be referred. In general colour it is more like one of the fulvous *Oryzomys* than an *Akodon*, but its teeth and proportions clearly show it to be a member of the latter group.

#### 5. *Akodon albiventer*, sp. n.

##### a. Lower Cachi.

A medium-sized *Akodon* of a pale greyish colour, with a white belly.

Size rather less than in *A. Spegazzinii*. Fur little woolly, about 7 or 8 millim. long on the back. General colour pale grizzled greyish, the tips of the darker hairs brown, and of the paler ones whitish buff, all slaty grey basally. Under surface snowy white from chin to anus, fairly sharply separated from the dark of the upper surface, but the basal halves of the hairs are still slaty grey, although this colour is hidden by the white ends. Eyes with whitish rims. Ears rather shorter than in the last species, the anterior half of their outer side grizzled grey, the posterior half whitish; there are also a few whitish hairs forming an indistinct spot just behind them. Forearms, hands, and feet pure white; claws rather long, as in *A. Spegazzinii*; hind feet broad and heavy, the soles naked, with 6 elevated pads. Mammæ 2—2=8. Tail about as long as the body without the head, well-haired, brown above, white on the sides and below.

Skull not very unlike that of *A. Spegazzinii*. Nasals rather broader; interparietals still narrower, but markedly broader in the centre than at the sides; palatal foramina not extending to the middle of  $m^1$ , posterior nares broader, the palatal edge opposite the back of  $m^3$ .

Dimensions of the type, measured in spirit before skinning (female):—

Head and body 87 millim.; tail 67; hind foot 19.2; ear 12.5.

Skull: basal length 21.6; basilar length 20; greatest breadth 12.5; nasals  $8.6 \times 3.5$ ; interorbital breadth 4.6; interparietal  $6 \times 1.2$ ; palate length from hensilion 10.6; diastema 6.8; palatal foramina  $5.4 \times 1.8$ ; length of upper molar series 4.3.

*Type.* B.M. no. 97.5.5.17.

This pretty little mouse may be readily distinguished from any of its allies, and especially from its neighbour *A. Spegazzinii*, by its pale grey back and snowy belly. In fact the colour-contrasts between these two species afford

an instance of the theory of "repulsion" (described P. Z. S. 1894, p. 144), by which when two allied species live together in the same place, and can gain no advantage by mutual resemblance ("mimicry"), they often intensify their colour differences to the greatest possible extent, in order probably that their members shall be enabled to distinguish comrades from rivals as readily as possible.

## XX.—*Descriptions of Four new South-American Mammals.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

### *Oxymycterus lanosus*, sp. n.

General appearance exceedingly like that of *Akodon xanthorhinus*, Waterh. Fur very soft, thick, and woolly, the wool hairs about 9 millim. long on the back, and the longer straight hairs forming a thick fringe 5 or 6 millim. beyond the wool hairs. General colour deep yellowish olive all over above, the sides brighter yellow along the junction with the belly. Under surface slaty grey, the tips of the hairs buffy white. Ears small, not projecting above the fur, well haired. Upper surface of hands and feet shining white; pollex with a blunt claw, hardly long enough to be called a true claw, but longer and more compressed than a "nail." Fifth hind toe reaching to the middle of the basal phalanx of the fourth. Tail about as long as the body without the head, well haired, blackish brown above, yellowish white below and on the sides.

Skull with a narrow slender muzzle and a very large rounded brain-case. Nasals narrow, pointed, concave above when viewed in profile. Interorbital region broad, smoothly rounded, convex above, without ridges. Brain-case broad, flattened, rounded. Interparietal small. Anterior zygoma-root very narrow, slanted forwards. Anterior palatine foramina reaching back one third of the length of  $m^1$ ; hinder edge of palate opposite back of  $m^3$ .

Incisors narrow, slender, very pale yellow above and white below. Molars as usual.

Dimensions of the type, in skin, male:—

Head and body (c.) 80 millim.; tail 51; hind foot (moistened) 20·6.

Skull: basilar length 18·4, greatest breadth (across brain-case) 12·4; nasals  $9·3 \times 2·8$ ; interorbital breadth 4·8; palate length from henselion 9·9; diastema 6·1; palatal foramina  $5·3 \times 2$ ; length of upper molar series 4.

*Hab.* Monteith Bay, Straits of Magellan.

*Type.* B.M. 80.7.28.11. Collected and presented by Dr. R. W. Coppinger, of H.M.S. 'Alert.'