

XVII.—Description of a new Papuan Phalanger.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Pseudochirus Forbesi, sp. n.

Externally almost precisely similar in size and colour to *Ps. canescens*, Waterh. *, but with no dark central streak on the head, with a large black patch in front of as well as behind the ear, with the ears themselves more thickly haired and surrounded by tufts of long soft hairs, and with the tail much more thinly haired, especially on its distal half.

Skull differing from that of *Ps. canescens* by its smaller and lighter build, flattened instead of vaulted nasals, more concave forehead, stronger supraorbital ridges, forming rudimentary postorbital processes, corresponding to which there is a marked prominence on the upperside of the malar bone.

Teeth, on the whole, small and light. Molars of about the same size as in *Ps. Bernsteini*, but the anterior teeth remarkably reduced, the incisors, canine, and posterior premolars very small, while the third incisor and first premolar are altogether suppressed, the upper dental formula being therefore

$$I. 2, C. 1, PM. 2, M. 4, \times 2 = 18,$$

a formula quite unique in the family.

Below, the rudimentary teeth between $i.^1$ and $pm.^4$ are wholly absent in one jaw, while in the other there is the alveolus from which a single minute tooth has been lost.

Dimensions of the type, an adult male (skin):—

Head and body (c.) 280 millim., tail 230, hind foot 30, ear (c.) 13, naked part of tail (c.) 100.

Skull: basal length 47.7 millim., greatest breadth 30.0; length of first three molars 8.8, vertical length of $i.^1$ 3.3.

Habitat. Sogere, Astrolabe Mountains, South-east New Guinea, 2000 feet altitude. Collected by H. O. Forbes, Esq.

The discovery of this highly interesting species is one of the results of Mr. H. O. Forbes's recent expedition to New Guinea, and I have very great pleasure in connecting his name with it.

Besides *Ps. canescens* the only other species allied to *Ps. Forbesi* is *Ps. Schlegeli*, Jent. †, which may, however, be readily distinguished from it by its wholly unstriped body, hairy underside of tail, vaulted nasals, more convex forehead, and very markedly larger teeth, among which $i.^3$ and $pm.^1$ are of course present.

Of this small group of Phalangers only five specimens are

* Figured by Hombron and Jacquinot, Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. Atl. pl. xix. (1842-53). (= *Ps. Bernsteini*, Schl., figured by Peters and Doria, Ann. Mus. Genov. xvi. pl. xii. 1880.)

† Notes Leyd. Mus. vi. p. 110 (1884).

known, namely the type of *Ps. canescens* at Paris, of *Ps. Bernsteini* and *Schlegeli* at Leyden, the specimen figured by Peters and Doria as *Ps. Bernsteini* at Genoa, and that now described as *Ps. Forbesi*. All these specimens I have myself examined and compared directly with one another; and for this advantage I have most sincerely to thank Prof. Pouchet, of the Paris Museum (Anatomie Comparée), and the Marquis G. Doria, of Genoa, both of whom sent me the valuable specimens under their respective charges, and Dr. F. A. Jentink of Leyden, by whom I was kindly permitted to study those there preserved.

XVIII.—*Diagnoses of two new Fruit-eating Bats from the Solomon Islands.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Nesonycteris Woodfordi, g. et sp. n.

Very similar, both in external and cranial characters, to *Melonycteris melanops*, Dobs.*, but with the face and whole of underside uniformly rufous, like the back, instead of being variegated with black and white, with no white spot at the insertion of the wing-membrane, with a longer slenderer muzzle and shorter smaller ears, without any trace of a claw on the index-finger, and, finally, with only one instead of two incisors on each side of the lower jaw.

Dimensions of an adult male (skin):—Head and body (c.) 100 millim.; head 35; muzzle 15·0; ear (from notch at base) 11·0; forearm 55·0.

Hab. Shortland and Fauro Islands, western part of Solomon group.

Two adult skins (male and female), and a young specimen in spirit, of this highly interesting bat were obtained, together with a considerable number of other Solomon-Island animals, in April and May 1886 by Mr. C. M. Woodford, after whom, as its discoverer, I have considered it only fitting to name the species.

Pteropus grandis, sp. n.

Size large; ears long and pointed; interfemoral membrane very narrow in the centre, concealed by the fur. Face, back, and centre line of belly black; neck, throat, and sides of body below dark maroon-red; rump and back of tibiæ rich orange-yellow.

Length of forearm (♂) 170 millim.

Hab. Shortland Island (*C. M. Woodford*).

* P. Z. S. 1877, p. 119, pl. xvii.



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