

LXXXV.—*Two new Subspecies of Phalanger orientalis.*
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

Phalanger orientalis ducatoris, subsp. n.

Intermediate in size between *orientalis* and *breviceps*. Colour and general appearance, at least of female, as in *breviceps*; adult male not known. General colour above of the usual dark grey varying to brown; under surface dull whitish. Dorsal line present, not conspicuous. Hairy part of tail like body, not yellowish as it generally is in *breviceps*.

Skull rather larger than that of *breviceps*, considerably smaller than in *orientalis*. Muzzle and interorbital region distinctly longer than in the former. Supraorbital ridges well developed, more so than in female *orientalis*, but whether the male has the greatly developed ridges found in *breviceps* is not at present known. Teeth and other characters about as in *breviceps*.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body 520 mm.; hind foot 62.

Skull: back of glenoid fossa to gnathion 65; postorbital process to tip of nasals 47; zygomatic breadth 46; nasals 33×12.2 ; interorbital breadth 10; dental length 41.3; greatest diameter of secator 4; ms^{1-3} 15.

Hab. Duke of York Island, between New Britain and New Ireland.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 78. 2. 5. 6. Collected by the Rev. G. Brown.

This is the animal which Alston referred to *orientalis**, and which in the Catalogue I placed with the Solomon Island Cuscus—*Phalanger breviceps*. It is, however, evidently an intermediate form inhabiting the Duke of York group and no doubt both New Britain and New Ireland, and should apparently have a special subspecific name.

On the other hand, the Phalanger of Ruk Island, between New Britain and the mainland, is as large as true *Ph. orientalis*.

Phalanger orientalis mimicus, subsp. n.

As in true insular *orientalis*, but much smaller. General colour of a male very similar to topotypical Amboina *orientalis*, the upper surface pale drabby grey, more intense across

* *Cuscus orientalis*, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 126.

the shoulders, lightening on face, fore limbs, and sides to whitish grey; under surface white. Dorsal line distinct, from nape to hind back. The usual white patch at the base of the ear. Hind limbs and base of tail drab-grey.

Skull essentially as in true *orientalis*, but the supraorbital ridges comparatively little developed, though the type is an old male, the anterior part of the interorbital space with rounded edges, and the postorbital processes much reduced. Sagittal crest medium. Teeth as in *orientalis*, but smaller, much smaller than in *gymnotis*. Canines projecting far beyond a line connecting the tips of i^1 and p^4 .

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 400 mm.; tail (damaged); hind foot 55; ear 25.

Skull: greatest length 79; condylo-basal length 76; zygomatic breadth 49; nasals 27.5×12.5 ; interorbital breadth 11.4; tip to tip of postorbital processes 14.2; intertemporal breadth 9.5; dental length 42; diameter of p^4 4.3; combined length of ms^{1-3} 13.3.

Hab. Coastal region south of Nassau Range. Type from Parimau, Mimika River. Alt. 250'.

Type. Fully adult male. B.M. no. 11.11.11.93. Original number 3080. Collected 4th October, 1910, by G. C. Shortridge. Presented by the B.O.U. New Guinea Expedition.

This animal is so conspicuously smaller than any form of *Ph. orientalis* inhabiting the mainland of New Guinea that it should certainly be distinguished. Its skull is no larger than that of the little *Ph. breviceps* of the Solomon Islands, but has not the remarkably developed supraorbital ridges found in that species.

In the same region there would seem to be a larger Cuscus, which was referred by Jentink to the *Ph. gymnotis* of the Aru Islands. A young specimen possibly referable to it was obtained by the B.O.U. Expedition at the same time as the present form.

LXXXVI.—A new Rock-Wallaby (*Petrogale*) from the Islands off South Australia. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE British Museum owes to Prof. Wood Jones an example of the Rock-Wallaby inhabiting Pearson's Isles, which are part of the Investigator group, in the eastern portion of the Great Australian Bight, about 134° E., 34° S.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1922. "LXXXV.—Two new subspecies of *Phalanger orientalis*." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 9(54), 680–681. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222932208632730>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53480>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222932208632730>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/215004>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.