

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THREE NEW MAMMALS FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH
AMERICA.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

While engaged in the identification of a collection of mammals for the Biological Survey the following unnamed species have been detected among the undetermined material in the U. S. National Museum. For the privilege of describing them, and for other courtesies, I am indebted to Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., Curator, and Mr. N. Hollister, Assistant Curator of the Division of Mammals.

***Marmosa ruatanica* sp. nov.**

Type from Ruatan Island, off the north coast of Honduras. No. 7785, adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by J. Akhurst.

General characters.—Size large—about as in *chapmani*, of Trinidad; general color similar, but duller; black orbital markings extending forward to nose; molariform teeth smaller.

Color.—Type (in worn pelage): General color above between cinnamon and isabella color, becoming smoky-brown on top of head, and lighter again on broad line down middle of face; blackish orbital markings extending to nose; under parts cream color, tinged with pale yellow; ears dark brownish; feet soiled white; tail dusky on basal half, becoming somewhat lighter terminally.

Skull.—Similar in general to that of *chapmani*, the rostrum rather broad and heavy as in that species; supraorbital ridges less developed; nasals similar in shape, but less prolonged posteriorly; molariform teeth smaller.

Measurements.—Dry skin: Total length, 338; tail, 188; hind foot, 24.5. *Skull*: Occipito-nasal length, 40.5; zygomatic breadth, 22.7; nasals, 17.7 x 4.9; interorbital breadth, 5.8; palatal length, 21; three anterior molariform teeth, 6.

Remarks.—In general characters this insular species agrees more closely with *chapmani* of Trinidad, than with any mainland form available for

direct comparison. It is well marked externally by the greater extension of the black orbital areas. The type, and only known specimen is in a much worn pelage, and would doubtless be brighter colored in the fresh coat.

***Marmosa zeledoni** sp. nov.**

Type from Navarro, Costa Rica. No. $\frac{12885}{37133}$, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by Juan Cooper, for José C. Zeledon, March 1, 1878.

General characters.—Allied to *mexicana*, but color darker, more rufescent, the line of demarcation between whitish under parts and buffy sides very sharp; interparietal narrower. Somewhat similar to *mitis*, but color decidedly darker, and skull quite different.

Color.—Upper parts cinnamon-rufous, becoming lighter on middle of face, and paling to ochraceous buff on cheeks, sides of neck, and flanks, the latter color encroaching on under parts along sides of belly where the fur is basally plumbeous; throat, chest, median line of belly, inguinal region, and inner sides of limbs yellowish white, the hairs whitish to roots; ears brown; orbital area black; fore feet brownish; hind feet soiled white; tail light brownish.

Skull.—Similar to that of *mexicana*, but interparietal narrower, less extended laterally along lambdoid crest. Somewhat like that of *mitis*, but braincase larger; interorbital region broader; supraorbital and temporal ridges more widely separated.

Measurements.—Type (dry skin): Total length, 345; tail, 168; hind foot, 23. *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 36; zygomatic breadth, 19.2; nasals, 16.2 x 4.4; interorbital breadth, 6.5; palatal length, 18.2; three anterior molariform teeth, 5.2.

Remarks.—This form is probably most closely allied to *mexicana*, but is readily distinguished by richer color. The supraorbital and temporal ridges in *mexicana* and *zeledoni* are widely separated, and especially in the latter, extend backward across the parietals in nearly parallel lines.

Specimens examined.—Five, from localities as follows: Costa Rica, Navarro (type locality), 2; Nicaragua, Escondido River, 3.

***Proechimys steerei*† sp. nov.**

Type from Rio Purus, a southern tributary of the Amazon, in north-western Brazil. No. 105,535, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by J. B. Steere, in 1901.

General characters.—Size medium; color dark and rich; ankles dusky all around; tail rather short, thinly haired; skull without temporal ridges. Closely resembling *semispinosus* in color, and in arrangement and stiffness of dorsal spines, but skull more like that of *trinitatis*.

Color.—Upper parts between orange rufous and ferruginous, lined with black, the color richest and darkest along median line of back, fading to buffy grayish or brownish on cheeks, flanks, and outer sides of limbs; under parts and inner sides of limbs pure white, abruptly interrupted at

* Named for Mr. José C. Zeledon, the well-known Costa Rican naturalist.

† Named for Dr. J. B. Steere, the naturalist and traveler.

ankles by a dusky band below which the white is continued along inner side of metatarsus to toes; fore feet and outer side of metatarsus pale brownish; nose and ears blackish, the latter nearly naked as usual in the group; tail brownish above, grayish below.

Skull.—Similar in general form to that of *trinitatis*, but rostrum broader above, less compressed over roots of incisors; supraorbital ridges heavier; audital bullae decidedly larger, more inflated; temporal ridges absent as in *trinitatis*; dentition about the same, except that there are four transverse furrows or enamel islands in the lower premolars of five skulls examined, instead of three as in the three skulls of *trinitatis* available for comparison.

Measurements.—Type (dry skin): Total length, 347; tail vertebrae, 122; hind foot, 49. *Skull*: Greatest length, 53.8; condylobasal length, 48; zygomatic breadth, 26; length of nasals, 19.3; interorbital breadth, 11.9; length of palatal bridge, 10.5; alveolar length of upper molariform toothrow, 8.5.

Remarks.—This spiny rat is a member of the same group as *trinitatis* and *mincae*, but differs in important respects from both and I am unable to associate it very closely with any of the other species described. In dentition it agrees with *trinitatis*, the type species of the genus, in the possession of three transverse furrows, or elongated enamel islands in most of the molariform teeth. This character is somewhat variable, however, in *trinitatis* and other species, the number in the lower molars being sometimes reduced to two. The furrows may also become divided through wear and the normal number thus obscured through the multiplication of enamel islands.

Specimens examined.—Five, all from the type locality.



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