

XVII.—Two new Argentine Species of Akodon.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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DURING the working out of Sr. Budin's Patagonian collection the two following species of *Akodon* have proved to need description:—

Akodon neocenus, sp. n.

A shaggy grey species allied to *A. varius* of Bolivia.

Size and general appearance very much as in *A. varius*, with the same loose and rather shaggy fur, which is, however, rather longer and thicker; hairs of back about 13–14 mm. in length, intermixed with longer bristle-hairs attaining 17 mm. General colour greyer than in *varius*, with less buffy, though the essential mixture of grey and buffy, varied by the dark tips to the hairs, is similar. Hands and feet whitish. Tail rather long, well haired, blackish above, whitish below.

Skull with the nasals narrower and more tapering posteriorly than in *A. varius*. Supraorbital broad with squared edges. Postero-external corners of brain-case developed into sharp angles, as viewed from above, this region being usually smoothly rounded; but this may possibly hereafter prove to be merely individual. Palatal foramina to the level of the front edge of the middle lamina of m^1 . Bullæ decidedly larger than in *varius*, their breadth in the type, taken at right angles to the diagonal length, 4.3 mm.

Incisors rather more proodont than in *varius*, the angle 78° in two specimens as compared with 72° – 75° .

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 108 mm.; tail 85; hind foot 23.5; ear 18.

Skull: greatest length 29.2; condylo-incisive length 28.2; zygomatic breadth 14.8; nasals 11×3.2 ; interorbital breadth 5.2; breadth of brain-case 13; palatilar length 12.8; palatal foramina 7; upper molar series (worn) 4.8.

Hab. Neuquen, Rio Limay, Upper Rio Negro, Patagonia.

Type. Old male in spirit. B.M. no. 11.11.19.12. Collected by E. Weiske, 4th November, 1910. Presented by the Hon. N. Charles Rothschild. An imperfect skin, No. 11.11.19.10, also in collection.

A southern representative of *A. varius*. Greyer than any of the members of the *A. obscurus-lenguarum* group which occur in the intermediate area.

Akodon benefactus, sp. n.

Allied to *A. lenguarum*, but smaller.

Character of fur and general colour very much as in *A. lenguarum*, the back equally varying from "fuscous" to dark "buffy-brown," the colouring resulting from a coarse and heavily lined mixture of black and dull buffy. Under surface soiled grey, the bases of the hairs slaty, the tips greyish white, varying to pale drabby along the middle line. Head like back; eye-rings buffy. Ears rather short, of the same general dark colour as head. No contrasted white spot on chin. Hands and feet brownish white, their hairs brownish basally, white at tip. Tail about equalling body without head, upperside blackish, lower dull white.

Skull decidedly smaller than that of *A. lenguarum* and with scarcely any trace of supraorbital ridges such as often develop in old age in that animal. Palatal foramina to the level of the back of the first lamina of m^1 .

Incisors about as in *lenguarum* and *obscurus*, more proodont than in ordinary Akodons, but less so than in *lacteus*, the angle in the type 84° .

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 99 mm.; tail 65; hind foot 19; ear 14.

Skull: greatest length 27; condylo-incisive length 26.2; zygomatic breadth 14.3; nasals 9; interorbital breadth 4.3; palatilar length 12.5; palatal foramina 5.7; upper molar series 4.5.

Hab. Bonifacio, South-west Buenos Ayres Province; alt. 50 m.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 16. 10. 3. 35. Original number 2620. Collected 13th May, 1916, by Robin Kemp. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

This species is related to *A. obscurus* of Uruguay and *A. lenguarum* of Paraguay, but is paler than the former and smaller than the latter.

Mr. Kemp seems to have found this species living in company with *A. arenicola* at Bonifacio, just as I did its relative *A. obscurus* in the neighbourhood of Montevideo.



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