

Upper labials eight, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Loreal nearly as high as long. The single anteocular just reaches the vertical, which is nearly as large as an occipital, very broad in front and narrow behind. Three postoculars. Temporals 1 + 1, the posterior twice as large as the anterior. Ventrals 195. Anal divided. Subcaudals 146. Entirely black.

Entire length 65 inches, of which the tail takes 20.

Dendraspis Welwitschii, Gthr.*

One specimen from Kavirondo; it differs somewhat in coloration from the type; the skin between the scales is black, but the scales themselves have no black tips; tail and hindmost part of the trunk black.

Causus rhombeatus, Wagl.

Common at Kavirondo.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXI.

Fig. A. *Chamæleon Elliotti*.

Fig. B. *Chamæsaura tenuior* (head).

Fig. C. *Elapsoidea Guentheri*.

LXIV.—*On a special Mountain Race of the Plantain Squirrel from Mount Dulit, E. Sarawak.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

DURING the past four or five years Mr. Charles Hose has repeatedly drawn my attention to the difference in size and general appearance presented by the specimens of *Sciurus notatus* obtained on Mount Dulit above 3000 feet from those got on the lowlands; but I have hitherto not ventured to describe them, on account of the known variability of the members of this group. However, the entire identity with each other of the five specimens taken at 3000 to 4000 feet, and their great difference from all the lowland ones, induces me now to describe the form, although the presence of one specimen somewhat intermediate in character from an inter-

* Of *Dendraspis intermedia*, Gthr., the British Museum has received specimens from Kilifi (*G. D. Trevor Rope, Esq.*) and from Tavita (*Keith Anstruther, Esq.*).

vening altitude (2000 feet) prevents my distinguishing the animal as more than a subspecies.

Its original discoverer was probably Mr. John Whitehead, who obtained what is perhaps the same form on Mount Kina Balu; but unfortunately his only adult specimen has an imperfect skull, so that I am unable to be quite certain as to its identity with that from Dulit. In any case it seems better to be on the safe side by describing the form of which good material is available, leaving the identity of its Kina Balu representative to be settled later.

Sciurus notatus orestes, subsp. n.

Size very much less than in the typical form. Markings similar to those of ordinary blue-bellied specimens of *S. notatus*, without any trace of rufous or orange on the belly. Sides with the usual lines of black and white. Back with a peculiar buffy or dull fulvous shade, due to the light rings on the hairs, ordinarily pale yellow, being deep buff. Cheeks and sides of muzzle less fulvous than the back, instead of more so. A small patch behind each ear white. Tail with shorter hairs, and these more broadly ringed than usual, so that there is an indistinct barring of the tail, instead of its being merely grizzled.

Skull conspicuously smaller than in lowland specimens, so much so that it seems difficult to assign both to the same species. In proportion also it is broader and more rounded, the muzzle shorter, and the bullæ and postorbital processes are less developed.

Dimensions of the type (a well-made skin, ♀):—

Head and body 195 millim.; tail 144; hind foot 33·3.

Skull (of another specimen): greatest length 39·7; greatest breadth 25; nasals, length 11, greatest breadth 5·9; inter-orbital breadth 14·7; diastema 9; length of upper molar series exclusive of *p.*³ 6·1.

Hab. Mount Dulit, 4000 feet.

Type: B.M. 94.6.2.24. Collected January 1892, and presented to the Museum by Messrs. Charles and Ernest Hose.

The intermediate specimen above referred to, from 2000 feet, has a wash of rufous on the belly and a skull-length of 44 millim., while the normal lowland form, which in Borneo seems always to have an orange or rufous belly, has a skull-length of about 50 millim. It is noteworthy that the belly-

colour in *S. notatus* in the Malay Peninsula is conspicuously variable, or, rather, dimorphic, rufous and blue *, whereas in Borneo the two colours seem to be respectively restricted to the lowlands and mountains. On one of the first specimens sent, shot in November 1891, Mr. Hose has noted that he had obtained thirteen specimens exactly like it during the month; and since then a considerable number of *S. n. orestes* have passed through my hands, so that its constancy on the mountain is evidently beyond question.

LXV.—*On a new Banded Mongoose from Somaliland.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

MR. F. GILLET has submitted to my examination the skins of a few mammals which were shot by him when accompanying, in a sporting capacity, Dr. E. Donaldson Smith's adventurous collecting expedition into Central Somaliland. Among these there are two examples of a *Crossarchus* belonging to the group of banded species, but evidently quite distinct from anything hitherto described.

It may be called

Crossarchus somalicus, sp. n.

Size of *C. fasciatus* and *gothnehi*. General colour very pale. Dorsal bands almost obsolete. No black tip to tail.

Colour grizzled ashy grey on head and fore quarters. Long hairs of back, where in *C. fasciatus* they are sharply ringed with deep black and bright orange-rufous, indistinctly blackish and dull yellowish white, so that the transverse dorsal bands are almost imperceptible, although they are distinctly present, and not, as in *C. gambianus*, lost in the general grizzling. Under surface very sparsely haired, practically naked in the inguinal region, grizzled grey without any mixture of rufous, except just on the chin. Limbs coloured like body, scarcely darkening terminally, even on the ends of the fingers and toes. Tail as in *C. fasciatus*, except that the end is grizzled like the rest instead of being black-tipped.

Skull in general form very similar to that of *C. fasciatus*. Four median upper incisors very narrow, not touching one another; but how far this is due to wear I am not at present

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1886, p. 77.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1895. "LXIV.—On a special mountain race of the plantain squirrel from Mount Dulit, E. Sarawak." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 15, 529–531.

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