

XLVI.—*On small Mammals from the Famatina Chain, North-western Rioja.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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

DURING March and April, after obtaining the collection from Tinogasta of which a list was recently given, Sr. Budin made an excursion to the chain of high hills known as the Sierra Famatina, in the north-western part of Rioja. The chain runs nearly due north and south, approximately on  $68^{\circ}$  W., and extending from about  $28^{\circ} 20'$  to  $29^{\circ} 30'$  S.

Sr. Budin collected mostly at a place called La Invernada, in the northern half of the chain, about 35 km. north of the mountain "Nevada de Famatina," and situated at an altitude of about 3800 m. A few specimens (numbers above 989) were obtained lower down and further south, at Potrerillo, alt. 1600 m.

As has happened with several of the collections, the Muridæ have proved to belong to known and more or less widely spread forms, while the Octodontidæ and Chinchillidæ have peculiar local specializations which involve their being described as new. Thus the present collection contains new forms of *Abrocoma*, *Lagidium*, and *Ctenomys*, all distinct from their nearest known allies. On the other hand, no species of Muridæ new to the Museum are in the collection, the one now described as new having been represented here, erroneously determined, for many years.

1. *Phyllotis ricardulus*, Thos.

♂. 908, 911, 913, 924, 931, 933, 936, 937, 940, 942, 975, 977, 978, 1006, 1011; ♀. 915, 917, 918, 939, 949, 955, 958, 962, 965, 973, 979, 980, 989. La Invernada and Potrerillo.

2. *Graomys cachinus*, All.

♂. 996, 1000, 1001. All from Potrerillo.

3. *Akodon glaucinus*, Thos.

♂. 995; ♀. 1014. Potrerillo.

4. *Akodon alterus*, Thos.

♂. 900, 905, 910, 920, 938, 969, 985, 986, 998, 1003, 1004; ♀. 903, 907, 922, 923, 925, 929, 941, 945, 954, 957, 966, 970, 971, 974, 976, 982, 983, 997, 1007, 1008, 1010. La Invernada and Potrerillo.



5. *Akodon gossei*, sp. n.

♂. 916, 919, 921, 930, 934, 935, 943, 944, 947, 948, 950, 952, 959, 967, 988; ♀. 909, 926, 927, 968. La Invernada.

A small species of a pale pinkish colour, very like a pale *Evotomys*.

Size decidedly less than in the last species, the teeth in particular very much smaller. Fur rather thin, hairs of back 8-9 mm. in length. General colour above greyish, washed on back with cinnamon or buffy of various intensity; the head, nape, and sides more greyish. Under surface washed with pale buffy, the bases of the hairs slaty. Ears greyish or buffy, darker on the proectote, more whitish on the proximal part of the metentote, which is darker terminally; a whitish or buffy patch on the side of the head behind their bases; these whitish marks on and behind the ears form an obvious characteristic of the species. Hands and feet white or buffy white. Tail about as long as the body without the head, brown or buffy brown above, whitish or pale buffy below.

Skull of normal shape. Supraorbital edges squared. Palatal foramina reaching to the level of the first third of  $m^1$ . Bullæ fairly large.

## Dimensions:—

Of the type: head and body 92 mm.; hind foot 19.

Of the largest of Sr. Budin's specimens, measured in the flesh: head and body 96; tail 66; hind foot 19; ear 13.

Skull (type): greatest length 24; condylo-incisive length 22; zygomatic breadth 12.5; nasals 8.4; interorbital breadth 4.2; breadth of brain-case 11.7; palatilar length 10; palatal foramina 5.2; upper molar series 3.8.

*Hab.* (of type). Puente del Inca, Andes of Mendoza. Alt. 10,000'.

*Type.* Adult, but not old, female. B.M. no. 98. 3. 21. 5. Original number 3. Collected January 1897 by Philip Gosse. Presented by E. A. Fitzgerald. Three specimens from the type-locality, two from Las Vacas, in the same district, alt. 2500 m. (*P. O. Simons*), one from "Chili" (*Philippi*), and the present series examined.

This species has long been known to me, but under the name of *andinus*, Phil., for there is a young specimen of it in the small collection, received, as I believe, from Dr. Philippi himself, with the name of "*Mus andinus*" upon it, a determination I had hitherto accepted.

But on looking up Dr. Philippi's two descriptions and figure of his *M. andinus*\*, I find that that is evidently quite

\* Arch. f. Nat. 1858, i. p. 77; An. Mus. Nac. Chile, xiv., Zool. Mu-rideos Chile, p. 22, pl. vi. fig. 2 (1900).



a different animal, for it has elongated claws, a purely grey—not rufous or buffy—colour, and is decidedly larger, the hind foot measuring 23 mm., while in the largest of the considerable series of *gossei* now available this measurement is only 21 mm., and is generally less. Nor do light ear-patches appear to be present.

I therefore now describe the reddish species as new, and have particular pleasure in connecting with it the name of its captor, now Capt. Philip Gosse, late of the R.A.M.C., to whom in recent years we have been indebted both for a series of the small mammals of the war-front at Armentières and also for a number of interesting Poona and Nilgiri mammals.

*Akodon gossei* is readily distinguishable from most species of *Akodon* by its warm *Evotomys*-like colour and the whitish patches on and round its ears. It is, however, somewhat similar to the *A. jucundus* of Jujuy, but has markedly larger teeth.

#### 6. *Abrocoma famatina*, sp. n.

♂. 951, 956, 960; ♀. 972, 981. La Invernada.

“Lives under rocks and in their clefts and fissures.”—*E. B.*

Rather smaller than the other species; tail shorter than in *A. budini*, longer than in *cinerea*. General colour ashy grey, much as in *cinerea*, but one specimen is more drabby, about as in the type of *budini*; in any case, however, the colour-range in the genus is very slight and of but little importance. Under surface paler grey, the tips of the hairs white or pale drabby; throat darker drabby; a well-marked whitish sternal gland present in all the specimens, male and female. Ears rather smaller than in other species; flesh-coloured basally, blackish terminally. Hands and feet white, the latter of normal length, not specially shortened as in *A. cinerea* \*.

Skull smaller and with shorter muzzle than in *A. budini* and *cinerea*, the distance from the tip of the incisors to the alveolus of  $p^4$  about 13.8 mm. as compared with about 15.3 in the other two. Nasals slender, narrowed behind, but not so markedly so as in *budini*. Plane of jugals almost as much slanted as in *budini*. Posterior palatal foramina as in the other Argentine species. Bullæ about as in *cinerea*, rather

\* The feet of the type of *A. cinerea* were measured by Sr. Budin and published by me as 27.5 mm. in length, but this is certainly longer than they really are. In the dry state they now measure 24.6 mm., and would not have exceeded 25 mm. when fresh. Comment was made on the peculiar shortness of the feet, a comment which would have been unjustified had they measured 27 mm.



larger than in *budini*. Cheek-teeth of medium size, smaller than in *budini*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 182 mm.; tail 117; hind foot 29.5; ear 23.2.

Skull: greatest length 45; condylo-incisive length 42.2; zygomatic breadth 23.6; bimeatal breadth 24; nasals 16.5; interorbital breadth 7.4; palatilar length 20; diastema 13; length of bulla on a line parallel with the median axis of the skull 15; upper tooth-series, crowns 9.3, alveoli 10. Incisors smaller and more delicate than in *budini*, about as in *cinerea*.

*Hab.* Famatina Range, Rioja. Type from La Invernada, 3800 m.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 20. 8. 4. 46. Original number 960. Collected 19th March, 1920.

This Famatina Abrocoma is probably most nearly allied to *A. budini* of Otro Cerro, Catamarca, but is smaller, with shorter muzzle and shorter tail. *A. cinerea* of Casabindo, Jujuy, has a still shorter tail and shorter feet, and the muzzle is as long as in *budini*. All these Argentine species, from the eastern slope of the Cordilleras, have the posterior palatal foramina minute, while in the two species of the western—Chilian—side these foramina are fused into a comparatively large single opening.

Sr. Budin has been peculiarly successful in obtaining these rare and interesting animals, this being the third he has discovered out of the five species known.

#### 7. *Ctenomys famosus*, sp. n.

♂. 946, 992, 993, 994, 1013; ♀. 914, 953, 990, 999, 1002. La Invernada and Potrerillo.

Like *C. coludo*, but tail shorter and bullæ smaller.

Size about as in *coludo*, or perhaps a little smaller, but differences of age make exact size-comparison difficult. Colour quite as in that animal. Tail decidedly shorter, the longest of the series only attaining 73 and 74 mm., while in our eight specimens of *coludo* all adults have the tail over 80 mm., while the longest attain 95 and 97.

Skull very much as in *coludo*, but smaller. Bullæ decidedly smaller, though still larger than in the larger species *C. knighti* of Otro Cerro. Zygomata less widely expanded mesially. Supraorbital region with small ledges. Teeth rather less heavy than in *coludo*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 160 mm.; tail 74; hind foot 31.5.



Skull: median length 41; condylo-incisive length 40.5; zygomatic breadth 24.5; nasals 14.3; interorbital breadth 8.5; bimeatal breadth 26.7; palatilar length 17.3; upper tooth-series, crowns 8.2; diameter of  $p^4$  3.1.

*Hab.* (of type). Portrerillo, at about 2600 m. Other specimens from La Invernada, 3800 m., both in the Famatina chain.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 20. 8. 4. 54. Original number 229. Collected 8th April, 1920.

As is natural, this Famatina tucu-tucu is nearly allied to the *C. coludo* of Tinogasta, Catamarca, just to the north, but its tail is uniformly shorter and its bullæ smaller, so that it would seem to need a special name.

### 8. *Lagidium famatinæ*, sp. n.

♀. 961, 984, 987, and three separate skulls. La Invernada.

"Shot at an altitude of 3800 to 4000 m."—*E. B.*

Near *L. lockwoodi*. Larger and less suffused with yellowish.

Size rather larger than in *lockwoodi*, the skull about 95 to 98 mm. in greatest length, as compared with 85 to 90 in that species. General colour above, of unbleached fur, bluish grey, nearest to "neutral grey" of Ridgway, without the brownish suffusion found in *lockwoodi*. Under surface broadly washed with buffy or ochraceous; white axillary patches present in all three skins.

Skull larger than that of *lockwoodi*, and differing from it in various details, of which the following are the most tangible. Muzzle distinctly longer, the diastema about 29 mm. in all six skulls, as compared with 26 in five of *lockwoodi*. Premaxillæ not so broadened, the incisors not being so thick. Lacrymal bones broadly developed, of irregular shape, their antero-posterior approaching their transverse diameter; in *lockwoodi* they form hardly more than a narrow fringe to the front edge of the orbit. Posterior part of skull higher owing to the greater height of the bullæ and meatus—in *famatinæ* the height from the lowest point of the bulla to the highest on the suprameatal island is about 30 mm., in *lockwoodi* 27 mm.; occipital shield differently shaped, its upright edges nearly parallel, the nearest points at the upper corners of the mastoids about 22 mm. from one another—in *lockwoodi* the shield is narrow above, broadening below, the above measurement about 17–18 mm. Bullæ more swollen than in *lockwoodi*.

Incisors averaging lighter in colour, white in four of the



six skulls, yellowish in the other two; in *lockwoodi* all are strong yellow. Molars not appreciably different.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 390 mm.; tail 376; hind foot 109; ear 82.

Skull: greatest length 96; condylo-incisive length 89; zygomatic breadth 46; nasals  $35 \times 12.5$ ; upper molar series (alveoli) 21.5.

*Hab.* as above.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 20. 8. 4. 57. Original number 984. Collected 30th March, 1920.

This mountain chinchilla, although very like *L. lockwoodi*, differs from it by so many details that it evidently needs description as new. In making the comparison I have had available five examples of *lockwoodi* and six of *famatinæ*, and the differences, such as they are, are perfectly uniform throughout the series.

The three skins are all in changing pelage, the new winter fur—grey—coming up among the old faded summer coat, which is of a dull drab-colour. Neither winter nor summer fur agrees in colour with that of *lockwoodi*, of which our available specimens are in fresh summer coat.

#### 9. *Galea comes*, Thos.

♂. 912, 928; ♀. 932, 963. La Invernada.

#### 10. *Marmosa elegans pallidior*, Thos.

♂. 964, 991, 1005, 1012; ♀. 1009. La Invernada and Potrerillo.

### XLVII.—*On Mammals from Ceram.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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

THE British Museum has received a collection of small mammals—mostly rodents—obtained by Messrs. Charles, Felix, and Joseph Pratt in the island of Ceram while engaged on a zoological exploration of the Dutch East Indian Islands. The majority of the specimens were collected at an altitude of about 6000' on Mount Manusela, the high mountain in the centre of the island.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1920. "On small mammals from the Famatina Chain, north-western Rioja." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 6, 417–422.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/63417>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/59088>

**Holding Institution**

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

**Sponsored by**

University of Toronto

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: NOT\_IN\_COPYRIGHT

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>.