

DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVEN NEW SPECIES OF EAST AFRICAN MAMMALS

(WITH THREE PLATES)

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The seven species and subspecies of mammals here described were collected by members of the Smithsonian African Expedition. This paper is the ninth dealing with the results of the expedition.

TATERA VARIA, new species

Type from the Loletai Plains, Southern Guaso Nyiro River, Sotik District, British East Africa; adult male, number 162249, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, June 15, 1909; original number 6338.

Coloration.—Dorsal coloration tawny ochraceous overlaid faintly with blackish posteriorly; sides lighter, pure ochraceous without any black intermixture, the ochraceous not very sharply defined from the pure white of the underparts; area between eye and ear, and spot behind ear whitish. Underparts pure white, the hair white to the roots. Feet white. Ears dusky, very sparingly haired. Tail clothed with white hair except the dorsal surface of the anterior half, which is tawny like the back.

Measurements.—Head and body, 169 mm.; tail, 239; hind foot, 43. Skull: condylo-nasal length, 45.5; basilar length, 36.5; palatilar length, 22; zygomatic breadth, 24; nasal, 20; interorbital constriction, 8; diastema, 13.5; maxillary toothrow, 7.5.

Most closely allied to *fallax*, from which it is distinguishable chiefly by its longer pencillate tail and the larger audital bullæ.

This species shows great variation in the character and number of the longitudinal grooves of the upper incisors. This variation extends from incisors which show no grooves to specimens showing as many as three grooves to each incisor. In a series of fourteen fully adult skulls from the same locality there are five specimens which show no indication of grooving even under magnification, three which show only one groove, five which have two grooves to each incisor, and one which possesses three grooves. The grooving

in all these specimens is rather shallow, and so faint that usually only one groove is evident without magnification.

TATERA POTHÆ, new species

Type from Potha, Kapiti Plains, British East Africa; adult female; number 161716, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, April 30, 1909; original number 6013.

Coloration.—Above tawny-ochraceous lightly lined with blackish hairs posteriorly. Tip of snout black. Eyes narrowly ringed with black; a white spot between eye and ear and a partially hidden one at posterior base of ear. Color of sides of head and body changing from the darker dorsal area through ochraceous to ochraceous-buff, but sharply defined against the pure white of the underparts. Ears thinly haired with blackish. Feet white; inside of hind limbs about ankle blackish. Underparts pure white, the hair white to the roots. Tail above brownish, the color deepening and spreading to under side on tip, where it becomes black; below, anteriorly, ochraceous like sides.

Measurements.—Head and body, 152 mm.; tail, 203; hind foot, 40. Skull: condylo-nasal length, 42.5; basilar length, 33; zygomatic breadth, 21.5; interorbital constriction, 7; nasal, 20; diastema, 11.2; maxillary toothrow, 7.

This form is most closely allied to *vicina* of Kitui, which is a smaller-footed and darker-colored race with smaller teeth. From *mombasæ* it differs in its shorter ears, much heavier and longer hair and the absence of the median dark stripe on the inferior surface of the tail.

EPIMYS PANYA, new species

Type from Juja Farm, Athi Plains, British East Africa; adult male; number 161886, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, May 23, 1909; original number 6220.

Coloration.—Above buffy, overlaid by black, the individual hairs medially buffy brown with black tips, interspersed with longer black hairs. Sides purer buff, merging gradually into the grayish of the under parts. Under parts whitish with a faint buffy tinge, the hairs slaty at base. Feet white. Ears blackish and appearing quite naked, but clothed sparingly by minute hairs. Tail naked, uniform dusky.

Measurements.—Head and body, 119 mm.; tail, 119; hind foot, 22.5. Skull: condylo-nasal length, 29.5; basilar length, 23.5; zygomatic breadth, 14.4; nasal, 11.8; interorbital constriction, 4; diastema, 8; maxillary toothrow, 5.1.

Closely allied to *hildebrandti* of the coast lowlands, which is a larger rufous brown form, and to *ugandæ*, which is darker and smaller. This is the most abundant mouse of British East Africa and the only native species which enters houses.

EPIMYS NIVEIVENTRIS ULÆ, new species

Type from the Ulu Kenia Hills, British East Africa; adult female; number 162887, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, November 19, 1909; original number 8221.

Coloration.—Above wood brown becoming lighter on the sides, but sharply defined from the pure white of the under parts; hairs of dorsal region wood brown, with dark blackish tips, the median dorsal area darkest. Ears dusky, clothed sparingly with minute brown hairs. Feet and under parts pure white, the hairs everywhere white to the roots. Tail dusky above, whitish below, but not sharply bicolor; clothed with brown hair, which becomes somewhat more abundant at tip, but not distinctly pencillate.

Measurements.—Head and body, 88 mm.; tail, 128; hind foot, 19.5. Skull: condylo-nasal length, 26.5; basilar length, 20.8; zygomatic breadth, 14; nasal, 11; interorbital constriction, 4.2; diastema, 7; maxillary toothrow, 4.4.

Allied to *subfuscus*, Osgood, of the Rift Valley, from which form it differs in smaller proportions and the greater extent of the white of the under parts. This mouse occurs abundantly on the rocky kopjes of the Athi Plains.

EPIMYS ENDOROBÆ, new species

Type from the western edge of the Mau Forest, 25 miles north of Edoma Ravine, altitude 8,600 ft.; adult male; number 162888 U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by Edmund Heller, November 27, 1909; original number 1261.

Coloration.—Median dorsal area from snout to base of tail hair brown, darkest on mid-line of back and merging on sides of head and body to ochraceous buff; lower sides fulvous, sharply defined from the whitish of the under parts. Ocular region and sides of snout blackish. Under parts white, tinged lightly with buffy, the hair broadly blackish slate at base. Feet white. Ears blackish, clothed sparingly with minute brownish hairs. Tail quite naked at base, dusky, becoming hairy toward tip, the terminal half inch white.

Measurements.—Head and body, 100 mm.; tail, 151; hind foot, 20; ear, 19.5. Skull: condylo-nasal length, 28.5; basilar length,

22; zygomatic breadth, 14; nasal length, 10.8; interorbital constriction, 4; diastema, 7.5; maxillary tooththrow, 4.8.

Closely allied to *dennia*, Thomas, of Ruwenzori, from which it may be distinguished by its much darker coloration, smaller ears, and larger molars.

This species is found only in the forest region, where it is everywhere associated with *E. peromyscus*.

TACHYORYCTES REX, new species

Type from the western slope of Mt. Kenia, altitude 10,000 ft.; adult male; number 163088, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, October 7, 1909; original number 7840.

Coloration.—Dorsal coloration brownish fulvous, overlaid faintly with blackish posteriorly, tip of muzzle blackish; hair everywhere dark slate at base. Under parts lighter, more tawny fulvous, with the plumbeous showing through conspicuously; small area about mouth white; throat blackish. Feet broccoli brown, the toes whitish. Tail dusky above, whitish below.

Measurements.—Head and body, 232 mm.; tail, 59; hind foot, 31. Skull: condylo-basal length, 54.5; basal length, 51; zygomatic breadth, 39; nasals, 23×7.2 ; length of bullæ, 11.8; diastema, 20; maxillary tooththrow, 10.5; diameter of m^1 , 4.

Size large, exceeding all other East African races. This species is most closely allied to *audax*, of the Aberdare Range, in skull characters. Teeth actually larger, but proportionately somewhat less, than those of *audax*. Nasals much longer and with lateral re-entrant angles present. In coloration this form is somewhat lighter than *audax*, and agrees with it further in seldom being subject to melanism. Compared to *annectens*, of Naivasha, which nearly equals it in size, the teeth and nasal bones are markedly larger, the basioccipital is much broader between the bullæ and the mandible. has a much larger condyle and coronoid process, with the incisor capsule placed very much farther forward. It is evident that in the alpine races of this genus the teeth are much enlarged.

This is an extremely abundant species on Mt. Kenia, where it inhabits a narrow zone at the upper edge of the bamboo forest where the moorland country first makes its appearance. The species is not found immediately below this area in the bamboo or yew forests, but another species appears on the grassy plains at the base of the mountain.

CROCIDURA ALPINA, new species

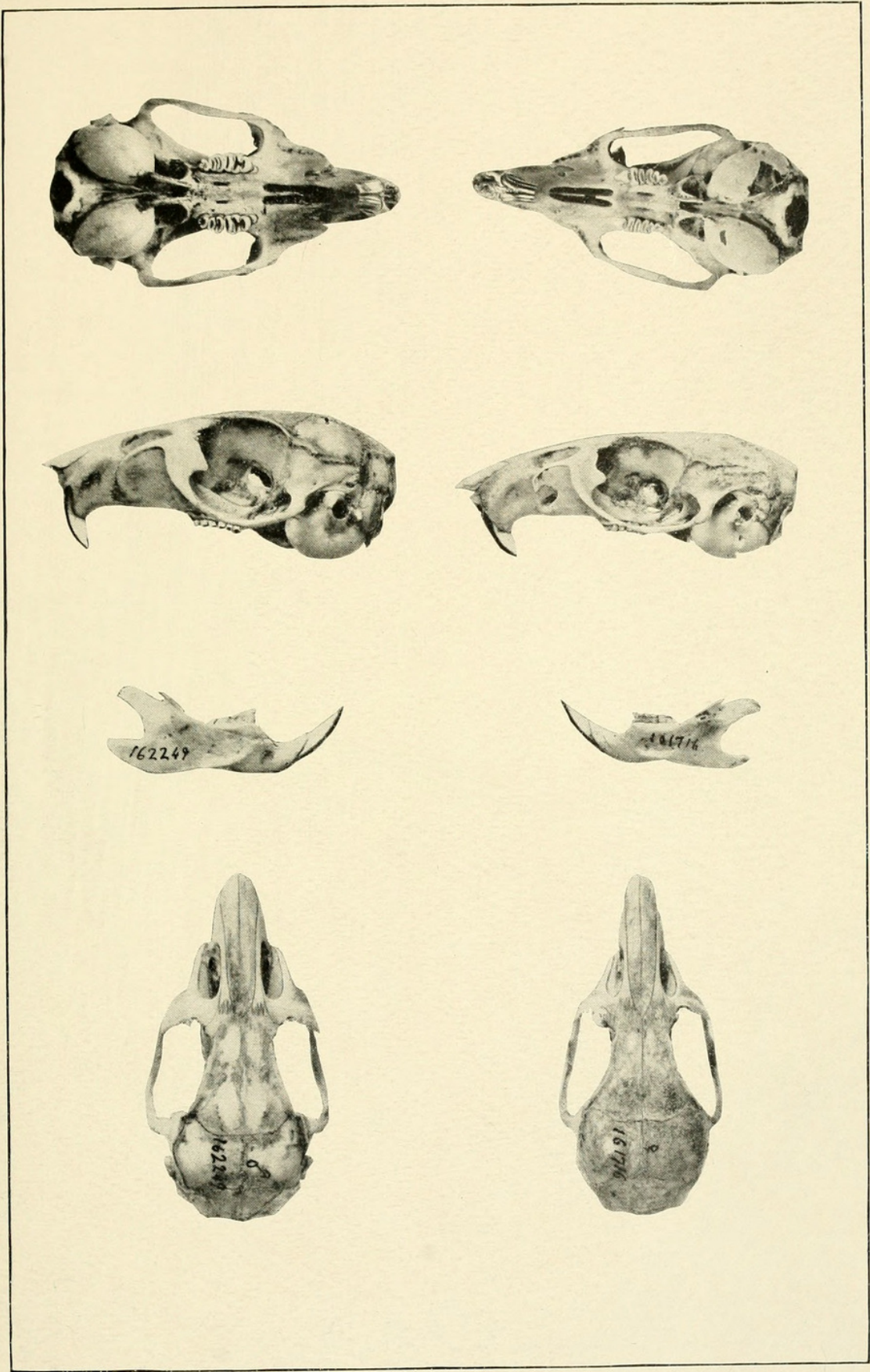
Type from the west slope of Mt. Kenia, altitude 10,000 ft., British East Africa; adult female; number 163089, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected by J. A. Loring, October 4, 1909; original number 7728.

Coloration.—Dorsal coloration Prout brown, changing on lower sides gradually to the buffy gray of the under parts. Feet lighter, wood brown. Tail above like back; below light buffy, but not sharply bicolor.

Measurements.—Head and body, 65 mm.; tail, 39; hind foot, 11. Skull: condylo-incisive length, 16.2; breadth of brain-case, 7.5; depth of skull at bullæ, 4.6; length of upper toothrow, 7.

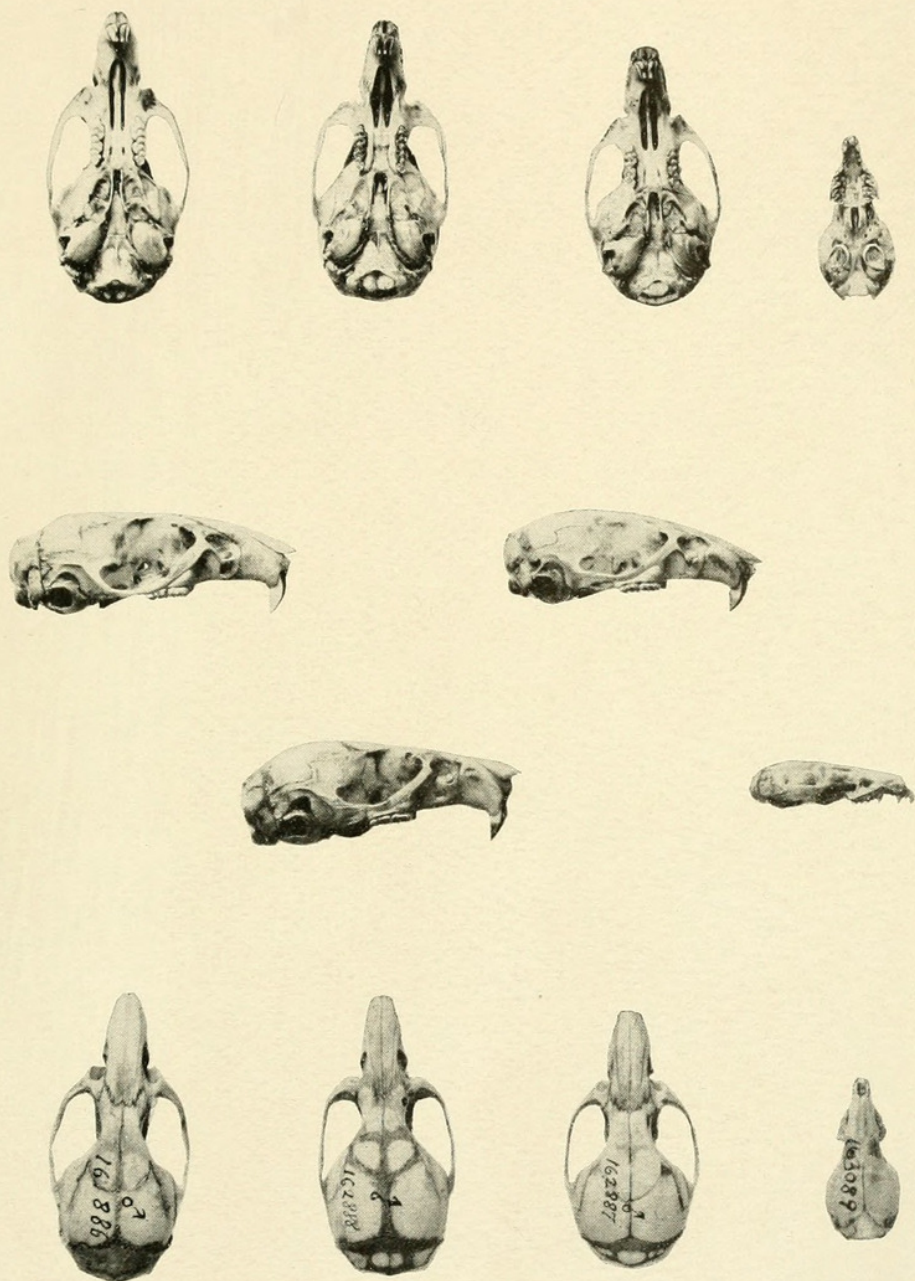
This species is closely allied to *allex*, from which it may be distinguished by its much flatter skull (one-half millimeter less), relatively small upper middle incisor, and by its bicolor tail and lighter coloration generally.

It is surprising to find this pygmy shrew in the alpine region of Kenia. The closely allied *allex* inhabits the lake district of Naivasha, the intermediate region about the base of Kenia being inhabited by the much larger *hildegardæ*. The range of this species extends from 10,000 to 13,700 ft.—that is, from the upper limit of the bamboo forest to the lower part of the giant *Senecio* zone. Through most of this extent it is associated with the giant *Crocidura*, *C. nyansæ*, attaining, however, a somewhat higher altitude than this species.



TATERA VARIA HELLER
Type. Natural size

TATERA POTHÆ HELLER
Type. Natural size

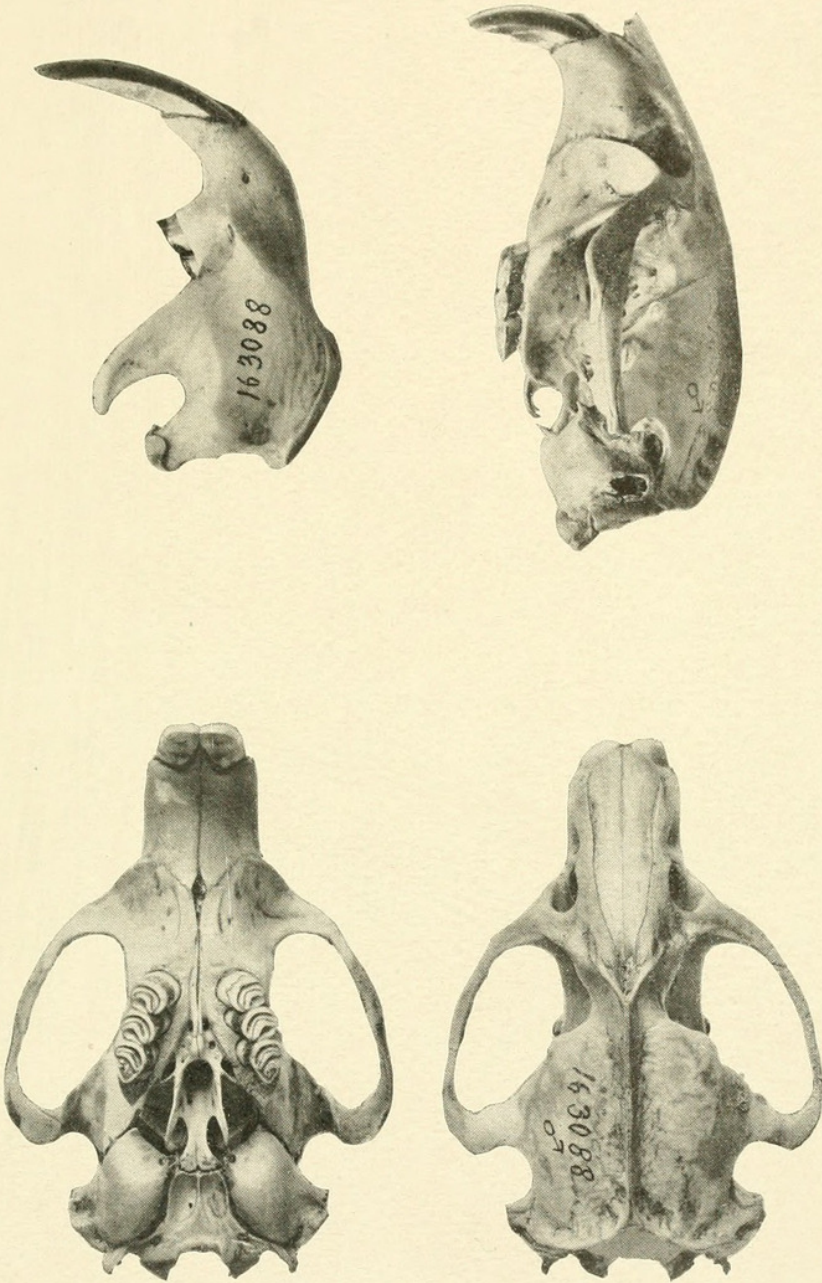


EPIMYS PANYA HELLER
Type. Natural size

EPIMYS NIVEIVENTRIS ULÆ HELLER
Type. Natural size

EPIMYS ENDOROBÆ HELLER
Type. Natural size

CROCIDURA ALPINA HELLER
Type. Natural size



TACHYORYCTES REX HELLER
Type. Natural size



Heller, Edmund. 1910. "Descriptions of seven new species of East African mammals." *Smithsonian miscellaneous collections* 56, 1–5.

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