

2. On some Mammals obtained by the late Mr. Henry Durnford in Chubut, E. Patagonia. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

[Received March 9, 1898.]

In the summer (southern) of 1877-8 Mr. Henry Durnford, whose name was at that time well known as a collector of Argentine mammals and birds, made a trip to Chubut¹ and obtained a certain number of mammals there. The specimens were deposited at the Zoological Society's Office, but were never worked out, and have been lying there ever since. They have now been transferred to the British Museum, and Mr. Sclater has asked me to contribute a list of them to the 'Proceedings.'

None of the species represented in the collection are new, but the record of their locality and Mr. Durnford's short notes on their habits may be of service.

1. ELIGMODONTIA GRISEOFLAVA Waterh.

a, b. Feb. 12 and Apr. 3, 1878.

I have long realized that the animal commonly known as "*Phyllotis*" *griseoflavus* has so different a skull from that of the typical species of *Phyllotis*, that it could not be considered as really congeneric with them. But, on the other hand, its cranial characters are by no means so different from those of the long-tailed species of *Eligmodontia*; and rather than make a new generic term for it I refer it to that genus, in which it bears to the other species about the same relative proportion in size as *Mus rattus* does to *M. musculus*.

"This Rat is only found close to the Colony in the summer, but at that season it overruns many of the houses and is extremely destructive, eating boots, calico, &c., and is especially fond of gnawing the metal spouts of teapots. What becomes of it in the winter I do not know, but I believe it lies dormant under the scrub and brushwood. It never burrows in the ground, but lives under old logs, bushes, &c., and the female makes a nest, generally in the centre of a thick bush of bark stripped into fine shreds and any soft material it can find. It can jump and climb with great agility."—H. D.

2. ELIGMODONTIA ELEGANS Waterh.

a, b. Mar. 3 & 5, 1878.

"Not uncommon among bushes, into which it climbs readily. Comes out in the evening to feed. I do not think this species makes holes in the ground."—H. D.

"Like the long-tailed Rat this species is most numerous in the summer, though during the winter a few may be found. It does not enter the house like its large relative, but is extremely

¹ See Mr. Durnford's article, 'Ibis,' 1878, p. 389, for an account of the localities visited.

numerous in the thick scrub and brushwood in the neighbourhood of the Colony, and universally distributed. It makes a small oval nest of fine grass and any soft material, which it places in the centre of a thick bush. It never burrows in the ground, but is extremely numerous among the thorn-bushes."—*H. D.*

3. *ELIGMODONTIA GRACILIPES* Waterh.

a, b. Ad. ♀ and yg., Mar. 18, 1878.

This Mouse is probably the same as the little species from La Plata which I have hitherto identified with Azara's "Laucha," but owing to the nearness of Chubut to the type-locality of *E. gracilipes*, Bahia Blanca, I provisionally use Waterhouse's name as most certainly pertinent. The species differs from most other S. American Muridæ in its larger number of mammæ, possessing from 5 to 7 on each side of the belly, placed equidistant from each other, and not definitely separable into pectoral and inguinal series. Provisionally also I use the generic name *Eligmodontia* not only for the long-tailed species, such as *E. griseoflava*, *elegans*, and *moreni*, but also for the short-tailed *E. gracilipes* and *E. bimaculata*, to which Rengger's "*Mus callosus*" and my "*Oryzomys (?) venustus*" may ultimately prove to be allied. Further examples of all these doubtful forms are very much wanted.

"Not so common as the other species; makes a nest in a thick bush about a foot above the ground. The nest is made of grass torn into fine fragments."—*H. D.*

4. *AKODON CANESCENS* Waterh.

a, b. Dec. 1877 and Apr. 1, 1878.

I am not quite satisfied that this Mouse ought to be distinguished from the common *A. arenicola* of S. Uruguay and Buenos Ayres, although there is a certain amount of difference in colour between the two. The type of *A. canescens* came from Port Desire, Patagonia; that of *A. arenicola* from Maldonado.

"Common in straw-heaps and in granaries."—*H. D.*

"Unlike the long-tailed Mouse this animal burrows in the ground, or more usually takes possession of some of the numerous cracks which may be always found in the earth, and appropriates them for its home. It has five or six young at a birth. It is pretty common, but not so numerous as the long-tailed Mouse."—*H. D.*

5. *OTENOMYS MAGELLANICUS* Benn. (?)

a. Very young. Tombo Point, Jan. 3, 1878.

"I know nothing of this species. I took it near Tombo Point, almost 60 miles to the south of the Colony, and it is the only specimen of this species I have seen. I found it close to the seashore."—*H. D.*

6. *CAVIA AUSTRALIS* Geoffr.

a, b. Ad. and yg. Mar. 14 & 18, 1878.

The external resemblance of this Cavy to the skin of *C. boliviensis*

from Bahia Blanca, referred to in my account of Prof. Spegazzini's mammals¹, is very remarkable, widely different as are the skulls of the two forms. Indeed, by the skin alone it would be almost impossible to distinguish them.

"Extremely abundant, and found in every clump of brushwood throughout the neighbourhood. This little animal is very good eating. It feeds on grass, and sits up like a rabbit on its hind-quarters while chewing the mouthful it has just taken."—*H. D.*

7. HIPPOCAMELUS BISULCUS (Mol.).

a, b. Skulls with horns.

These specimens are not labelled, but are presumably from Mr. Durnford's Chubut collection.

The information on which this name is adopted is obtained from Mr. Lydekker's work on the Deer², but I am unable to admit the validity of the reasons which have induced him to reject the name *Hippocamelus* in favour of *Xenelaphus*.

3. Additions to the Knowledge of the Phytophagous Coleoptera of Africa.—Part I. By MARTIN JACOBY, F.E.S.

[Received February 28, 1898.]

(Plate XXII.)

Since my last paper in the Proceedings of this Society was read (see P. Z. S. 1897, p. 527), a good deal of additional material from Mashonaland and West Africa has come to hand, and more may be looked for through the exertions of Mr. Guy Marshall in Mashonaland, so that there is good reason to hope that ere long we shall be well acquainted with the Coleopterous fauna of that region.

The present paper deals with the earlier groups of Phytophaga; the *Halticinae* and *Galerucinae* will form the subject of the second part.

LEMA REGIMBARTI Gestro.

Dark æneous; thorax tuberculate anteriorly, strongly and closely transversely rugose or plicate; elytra dark fulvous, very regularly punctate-striate, the punctures partly elongate, the interstices finely transversely aciculate, convex at the apex.

Length 9 millim.

Head dark æneous, nearly black, finely wrinkled and closely punctured, with a central deep elongate fovea, the interstices sparingly pubescent; eyes very deeply notched; antennæ black, extending to the base of the elytra, the terminal joints strongly widened and thickened, longer than broad; thorax rather long, the sides concave at the middle, the anterior angles produced into

¹ Ann. Mag. N. H. (6) xx. p. 215 (1897).

² 'Deer of all Lands,' p. 296 (1898).



Thomas, Oldfield. 1898. "On some Mammals obtained by the late Mr. Henry Durnford in Chubut, E. Patagonia." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1898, 210–212. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1898.tb03140.x>.

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