

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF MARSUPIALS (*PERAMELES* AND *ANTECHINUS*), AND OF A NEW SPECIES OF *MUS* (*M. BURTONI*), FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF DERBY, N.W.A.

BY DR. E. P. RAMSAY, F.R.S.E., F.G.S., &c., &c.

(PLATE XVII.)

For the pleasure of describing the above-named Marsupials, I am indebted to the Hon. W. Macleay, who obtained them from one of his collectors (Mr. Froggatt), from Derby, N. W. Australia. The *Mus* I received from the late Thos. Boyer-Bower Esq., from the same locality.

*PERAMELES AURATUS*, *sp. nov.*

Total length, 8·5 inches (*without tail*); fore foot, 1 inch; hind foot, 2 inches; from tip of snout to centre of the eye, 1·4 inch; from tip of snout to base of the ear, 2·2 inches; length of ear 0·7 inch, width at base 0·5 inch, greatest width 0·7 inch; tail wanting, (*represented by small tubercle 0·5 inch long, probably a malformation.*)

General color rich golden brown pencilled with black, on the sides of a clearer tint, passing on the throat and belly into white. The whole of the upper surface of the body, head and sides pencilled with narrow black lines formed by the black portions of the stiff flattened hairs. Hair of two kinds, the fur next the skin is of an ashy white, soft and silky; the outer hairs flattened, stiff, almost spiny; on the throat, belly, and inner parts of the legs white; on the upper parts of head and back black and rufous; some hairs barred alternately, others all black or all rufous, giving a pencilled or striated appearance of black and rufous to the upper surface; the ears proportionately broad and short, although conspicuous. There is no trace of bars on the body. Incisors,  $\frac{5-5}{3-3}$ ; Canines,  $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$ ; Premolars,  $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ ; Molars,  $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$ .



ANTECHINUS (*Podabrus*) FROGGATTI, *sp. nov.*

Tail thickened at the base, spindle-formed, gradually tapering to the tip. Total length to the root of the tail from the snout, 3 inches; from the snout to eye, 0.5 inch; from tip of snout to the ear, 0.8 inch; length of ear 0.4 inch, breadth at base 0.3 inch; fore feet from wrist with nails, 0.3 inch; hind feet with nails, 0.55 inch; greatest diameter of tail about one fourth of an inch from the rump 0.2 inch, its entire length 2.7 inches; fur dull mouse-color next the skin.

General color above light ashy-grey pencilled with black hairs, alternately banded or tipped with ashy-grey and black; sides of the head ashy tinged with brown; forehead and a narrow triangular stripe to the nose pencilled with black like the back; hair behind the ear ashy, round the base tinged with tawny rufous; ears ashy-brown, almost bare; sides of the body, chin, throat and all the under surface white; forearms and hands white; hind legs ashy-brown on the thighs, remainder white; a narrow white line round the margin of the mouth; tail ashy-white, clothed to the tip with short hair, and scaled as in other members of the genus; feet below almost covered with hair.

*Dentition.*—There are two anterior incisors above, larger and stronger than the three on either side of them, from which they are separate, three below on either side ovate, rounded on their upper edge, narrowed at their bases; canines one on either side above and below comparatively large, a space between them and the three lateral incisors; three premolars on either side above and below, rather small but increasing in size towards the true molars, which are four on either side above and below, the fourth or last being the smallest and almost tubercular; formula, Incisors,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 4-4 \\ 3-3 \end{smallmatrix}$ ; Canines,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 1-1 \\ 1-1 \end{smallmatrix}$ ; Premolars,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 3-3 \\ 3-3 \end{smallmatrix}$ ; Molars,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 4-4 \\ 4-4 \end{smallmatrix}$ .



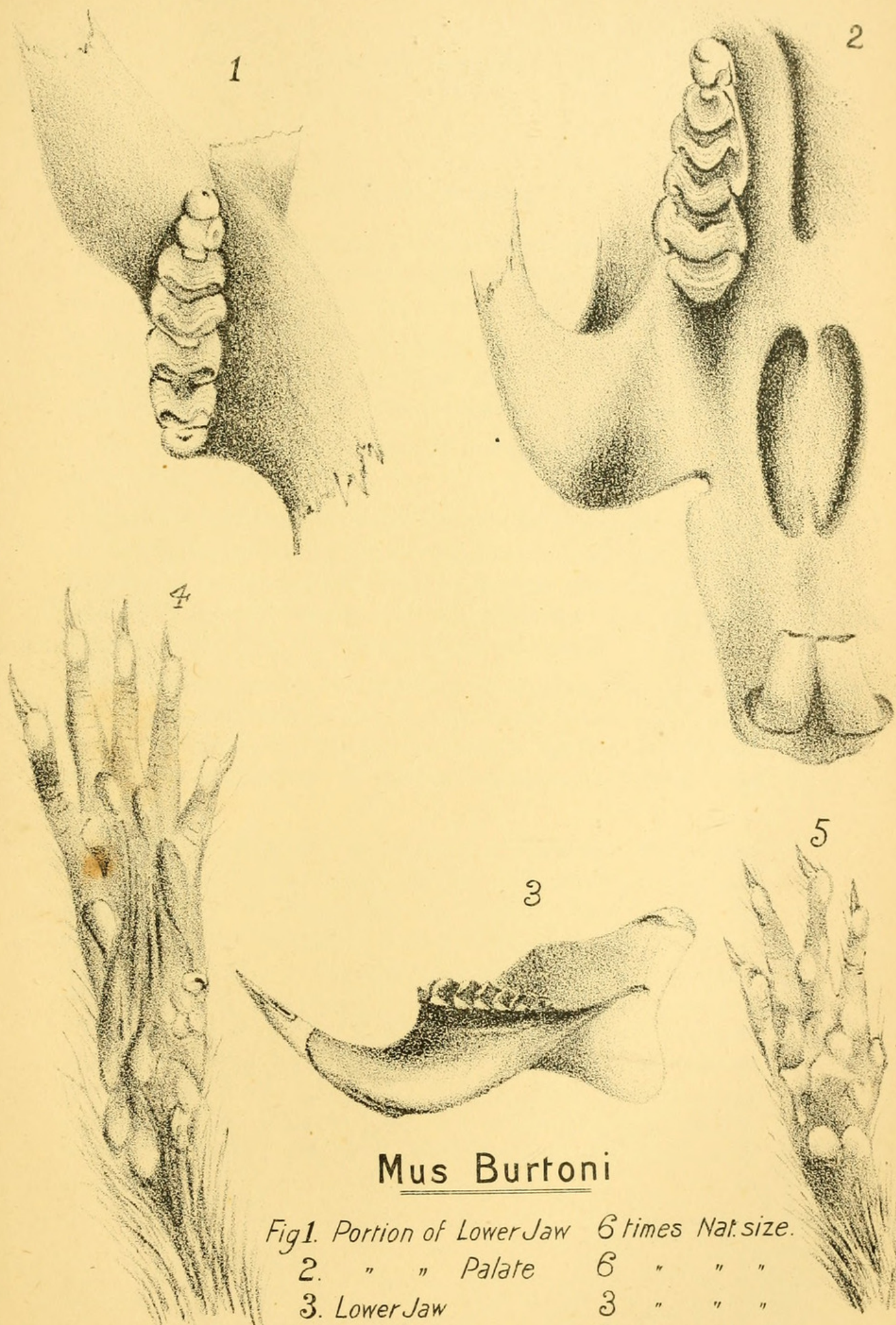
MUS BURTONI, *sp. nov.*

(Plate XVII.)

General color of a uniform dull ashy-grey or mouse-colour, fur dense, close, thick and soft, of one kind, almost woolly, slightly browner above than on the under surface, which is of a light grey tint; head rather short; ears moderate; tail naked, not quite the length of the body; whiskers black reaching to behind the ears; from snout to eye, 0.7 inch; from snout to ear, 1.2 inches; length of ear 0.65 inch, greatest width 0.45 inch; forearm, 0.7; hand, 0.45; hind foot, 1 inch; tail, 4.1 inches; total length from snout to tip of tail, 8.9 inches.

The chief characteristic in this species is its remarkably woolly and soft fur, and uniform colour. The skull being broken and only the anterior parts with a portion of the dentition being left I can make no notes thereon; the very accurate figures, however, will help in its identification. I have named this species after Mr. Burton who accompanied the late Thos. Boyer-Bower, Esq., as taxidermist to North West Australia.





# Mus Burtoni

Fig 1. Portion of Lower Jaw	6 times Nat. size.
2. " " Palate	6 " " "
3. Lower Jaw	3 " " "
4. Hind Foot	3 " " "
5. Fore Foot	3 " " "



Ramsay, Edward Pearson. 1887. "Description of two new species of marsupials (*Perameles* and *Antechinus*), and of a new species of *Mus* (*M. Burtoni*), from the neighbourhood of Derby, N.W.A." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 2, 551–553.

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