GEORYCHUS GRÆNLANDICUS.—RICH.

GREENLAND LEMMING.

A. Exauriculatus, rostro acuto, palmis tetradactylis hirsutis ; unguibus apice cylindrico producto, lineâ dorsali nigrâ.

CHARACTERS.

Earless ; with a sharp nose ; fore-feet hairy beneath, with four toes, armed with claws, having sharp cylindrical points ; a dark stripe along the middle of the back.

SYNONYMES.

ARVICOLA (GEORYCHUS) GRÆNLANDICUS, Greenland Lemming.—Rich, Fauna Boreali Americana, p. 134.

MOUSE, Sp. 15.—Foster, Phila. Trans. lxii., p. 379 ?

HARE-TAILED RAT ?—Pennant, Arct. Zool., vol. i., p. 133 ?

MUS GRÆNLANDICUS.—Richardson, Parry's Second Voy., App. p. 304.

OWINYAK—Esquimaux.

DESCRIPTION.

Size—rather less than a rat : head rounded, narrower than the body, tapering slightly from the auditory opening to the eyes ; nose acute. There are no external ears, but the site of the auditory opening is denoted by an obscure transverse brownish streak in the fur. The eyes are near each other and small. The fur on the cheeks is a little puffed up. The upper lip is deeply divided ; lower incisors twice the length of the upper ones ; whiskers long ; body thickly covered with long and soft fur. Tail very short ; the *fore extremities* project very little beyond the fur ; the palms incline slightly inwards, are small, and the toes very short ; both are covered thickly above and below, with strong hairs curving downwards, and extending beyond the claws. The only naked parts on the foot are a minute, flat, unarmed callus, in place of a thumb, and a rounded smooth callus at the extremity of each toe. These callosities do not project for-

ward under the claws, and have no resemblance to the large, compressed, horny, under portions of the claws of the Hudson's Bay Lemming.

The claws are long, strong, curved moderately downwards, and inclining inwards. Soles of the hind-feet hairy, and the hairs project beyond the claws. The hind-feet have five toes, of which the three middle ones are nearly of a length. The hind-claws are slightly arched, narrow, but not sharp at the points; they are thin, hollowed out underneath, and calculated to throw back the earth which has been loosened by the fore-claws.

COLOUR.

The general colour of the upper parts of the body and of the head is dark greyish brown, arising from an intimate mixture of hairs tipped with yellowish-grey and black; the black tips are the longest, and, predominating down the centre of the back, produce a distinct stripe. The ventral aspect of the throat, neck, and body, exclusive of some rusty markings before the shoulders, is of an unmixed yellowish-grey colour, which unites with the darker colour of the back by an even line running on a level with the tail and inferior part of the cheek. The fur both on the back and underneath presents, when blown aside, a deep blackish-grey colour from the tips to the roots. The tail is of the same colour as the body at the root, but the part which projects beyond the fur of the rump is only a pencil of stiff white hairs.

The above is copied, with some alterations, from RICHARDSON'S description, which was drawn up from a male, killed August 22, in Repulse bay.

DIMENSIONS.

		Inches.	Lines.
Length of head and body,	- - - - -	6	3
" " tail,	- - - - -		9
" " fore-leg from palm to the axilla,	- - - - -	1	1
" " longest fore-claw,	- - - - -		4
" " palm of middle-claw,	- - - - -		6
" " whiskers,	- - - - -	1	4

HABITS.

We refer our readers to the *Fauna Boreali Americana* for some interesting general remarks on the Lemmings, comparing those of the American continent with European species. We know nothing of the habits of this one.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Georychus groelandicus, Greenland Lemming." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 315–316.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322455>.

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