Drawn on Stone and Engraved

Downy Squirrel.

SCIURUS LANUGINOSUS.—BACHMAN.

DOWNY SQUIRREL.

PLATE XXV.

S. auribus brevibus, cauda subdisticha; S. Hudsonico paullo robustior, supra castaneo-fuscus, subtus albus, naso concolori; lateribus argenteis; occipite maculo distincto.

CHARACTERS.

Ears, short; tail, sub-distichous; light chesnut-brown on the upper surface; sides, silver-gray. A spot on the hind part of the head, nose, and under surface of body, pure white. A little stouter than S. Hudsonius.

SYNONYME.

SCIURUS LANUGINOSUS, Bach., Jour. Acad. Nat. Sc. of Phila., vol. viii., pt. 1, p. 67, 1838.

DESCRIPTION.

Head, broader than in *S. Hudsonius*; forehead, much arched; ears, short and oval; whiskers, longer than the head; feet and toes, short; thumb, armed with a broad flat nail. Nails, compressed and acute; the third, on the fore-feet, longest.

The tail, (which bears some resemblance to that of the flying squirrel, *P. volucella*,) is clothed with hairs a little coarser than those on the back, and is much shorter than the body. On the fore-feet the palms are nearly naked, the under surface of the toes being only partially covered with hair; but on the hind-feet, the under surface from the heel to the extremity of the nails is thickly covered with soft short hairs. Fur, softer and more downy than that of any other of our species. The fur indicates that the animal is an inhabitant of a cold region.

COLOUR.

Teeth, dark orange; whiskers, brown; fur on the back from the roots to near the tip of the hair, light plumbeous, tipped with light chesnut-

brown; on the sides tipped with silver-gray. A broad line of white around the eyes, a spot of white on the hind part of the head, a little in advance of the anterior portion of the ears; nose, white, which colour extends along the forehead over the eyes, where it is gradually blended with the colour of the back; the whole under surface, feet, and inner surface of the legs, pure white. Tail, irregularly covered with markings of black, light brown, and white, scarcely two hairs being uniform in colour.

In general it may be said that the tail, when examined without reference to its separate hairs, is light-ash at the roots of the hairs, a broad but not well defined line of light rufous succeeding, then a dark brown space in the hairs, which are tipped with rufous and gray.

DIMENSIONS.

					Inches.	Lines.
Length of head and body	-	-	-	-	7	11
“ tail (vertebræ)	-	-	-	-	4	8
“ tail, including fur	-	-	-	-	6	0
Palm, and middle fore-claw	-	-	-	-	1	0
Sole and middle hind-claw	-	-	-	-	1	9
Length of fur on the back	-	-	-	-	0	7
Height of ear, measured posteriorly	-	-	-	-	0	5
Distance between the orbits	-	-	-	-	0	6

HABITS.

This downy and beautifully furred squirrel exists in the north-western portions of our continent. The specimen from which our drawing was made, is the only one which we have seen, and was brought from near Sitka, by Mr. J. K. TOWNSEND, who kindly placed it in our hands, in order that we might describe it. As the animal was presented to Mr. TOWNSEND by an officer attached to the Hudson's Bay Company, and was not observed by him, he could give us no account of its habits. We think, however, that from its close approximation to that group of squirrels of which the Hudson's Bay, or chickaree squirrel, is the type, and with which we are familiar, we can form a pretty correct judgment in regard to its general characteristics, and we will venture to say that it is less agile and less expert in climbing than the chickaree; it no doubt burrows in the earth in winter like the latter species, and as its tail is more like that of a spermophile than the tail of a squirrel, although the rest of its specific characters are those of the true squirrels, we are disposed to consider it a closely connecting link between these two genera, and it very

probably, according to circumstances, adopts the mode of life commonly observed in each.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

This species is found several degrees to the north of the Columbia river, and is said to extend through the country adjoining the sea-coast as far as into the Russian settlements. Mr. TOWNSEND says, "It was killed on the coast near Sitka, and given me by my friend, W. F. TOLMIE, Esq., Surgeon of the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company."

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1851. "Sciurus Lanuginosus, Downy Squirrel, [Pl. XXV]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 1, 199–201.

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