

XIX.—*Description of a supposed new Hedgehog from Muscat in Arabia.*—

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(With Plate IX.)

Amongst a collection of small mammals, birds and reptiles, sent to me some time since by Colonel Miles, the Political Agent at Muscat, are two specimens, one preserved in spirit, the other a skin, of a species of hedgehog which appears to me undescribed. It is somewhat intermediate in characters between the Indian *E. collaris*, and the Persian and Baluchistan *E. macracanthus*, and *E. megalotis*, being larger than the former and having longer spines, whilst it is inferior in both respects to the two latter. The following is a description of the new form.

ERINACEUS NIGER, sp. nov.

E. supra niger, subtus nigrescenti-fuscus, auriculis longiusculis, pilis sparsis griseis indutis, aculeis longiusculis, apices versus nigris, in medio albis, ad basin fuscis. Long. tota 6—7, auriculi 1.6, plantæ 1.25 poll. angl.

HAB. Juxta Muscat in Arabia.

The description is chiefly taken from the specimen in spirit, a female. The size is moderate, exceeding that of *E. collaris*, but apparently inferior to *E. europæus*. The colour is black above, the white ring on the spines being very inconspicuous, the face is sooty black with a few gray hairs interspersed, the ears are grey. On the lower parts and limbs all the hairs are sooty or blackish brown.

The feet are of moderate size, not so broad as in *E. grayi*, nor short as in *E. micropus*, but resembling those of *E. collaris* in form, and thinly clad with hair above. Five claws on all feet, the inner claw on the hind feet much smaller than the others.

The ears are long, not very broad, rounded at the end, thinly clad outside and near the margin inside with short whitish hairs: there are longer white hairs at the base of the anterior inner margin, and longer blackish hair near the base in front and behind.

Spines long, one inch to one and a quarter in length on the hinder part of the back. In the spirit specimen, a female, none exceed 1.1 inches; in the dried skin some are nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. The spines commence on the forehead inside of each ear, leaving a space free from spines in the middle, running back for about an inch. All are black at the points for half an inch, then white for about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, then dusky to near the base where they are

rather paler. Each spine is surrounded by about 24 to 28 longitudinal grooves, the ridges between the grooves being closely tuberculate.

The following are measurements of the specimen in spirit, an adult female. Males are probably rather larger. The length, owing to contraction, is somewhat less than that of a fresh specimen would be—

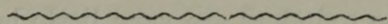
Length from nose to anus,	5.5
Ditto of tail,	0.9
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Total,	6.4
Length of ear from orifice,	1.6
Ditto ditto outside,	1.35
Breadth of ear,	0.9
Length of palma without claws,	0.9
Ditto planta ditto,	1.25

The skull of the same specimen is rather narrower than that of *E. colaris*, and has a longer muzzle. The following are measurements:

	in
Length from occipital plane to end of premaxillaries, ...	1.9
Ditto from lower margin of <i>foramen magnum</i> to ditto, ...	1.78
Ditto of bony palate from opening of posterior nares, ...	1.05
Breadth across zygomatic arches,	0.98
Breadth of frontal region between orbits,	0.45
Ditto nasal bones,	0.13
Length of nasal suture,	0.56
Ditto of mandible,	1.42
Height of ditto about,	0.65

Description of Plate.

- Fig. 1. Head of *Erinaceus niger*.
 2. Fore foot of ditto.
 3. Hind foot of ditto.
 4, 5, 6. Skull of ditto.





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