

widest basally; *m-cu* immediately beyond the fork of *M*, so the basal section of *M*₃ is almost lacking; petiole of cell *M*₁ equal to or a little shorter than the second section of *M*₁₊₂ and in alignment with it; cell 2nd *A* broad.

Abdomen with the basal tergite dark brown; remaining tergites black; sternites obscure yellow, segments 6 to 9 and the caudal margin of 5 infuscated. Male hypopygium inverted as in the genus, the ninth tergite occupying a ventral position, consisting of two rounded black lobes that are separated by a deep U-shaped notch.

Hab. New Zealand (North Island).

Holotype, ♂, Ohakune, altitude 2060 feet, October 10, 1921 (*T. R. Harris*).

XXXIX.—*Two new Jerboa-rats* (*Notomys*).
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG the mammals collected by the late Mr. W. Stalker in the neighbourhood of Alexandria, Northern Territory of Australia, is a nice series of a jerboa-rat from Alroy, which in my account of the collection was recorded as *Notomys mitchelli**—a determination which was accepted in my recent notes on the genus *Notomys* †.

There appeared, however, to be some doubt as to what the true *Notomys mitchelli* of the Lower Murray River was, and I appealed to Mr. Troughton at Sydney for information about the type, while in the meantime the characters of the species were drawn up from the Alroy series.

Mr. Troughton now tells me that he has examined the incisors of the original specimens of "*Dipus mitchelli*," and finds that they are distinctly orthodont, not opisthodont as in our northern specimens and as stated in my description of the species.

Since writing the paper on *Notomys*, I have had lent me by the Liverpool Museum a number of Australian Muridæ received by them from Mr. Gould, and among these there are two jerboa-rats (nos. 246 and 246 *a*) from the Gawler

* P. Z. S. 1906, p. 539.

† Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) viii. p. 536 (1921).

River, S. Australia, which, having an incisive index of 70° – 71° , I thought must be new if *mitchelli* proved to be opisthodont; but, now that we know it to be orthodont, they may be fairly safely assigned to that species, being the only specimens in this country with a recorded locality. In the British Museum we possess one specimen, without incisors, from "New South Wales," collected by Mr. Stutchbury, and another, of more doubtful determination, from "Australia" (Gould Collection). Whether the species is now completely exterminated we do not know.

The Alroy specimens would seem to demand description as new:—

Notomys alexis, sp. n.

Size of *N. mitchelli*. General colour sandy brown, paler than in *mitchelli*, but darker and browner than in *cervinus*. Sides paler sandy. Under surface well-defined white, the hairs with slaty bases except on the throat and chest, where they are white to the roots. Ears of medium length. Hands and feet quite white. Tail fairly long, well pencilled for its terminal third; above sandy for its proximal half, then blackish to the tip, below white throughout, the two colours well contrasted terminally.

Skull of fairly normal shape, not with enlarged brain-case as in *cervinus*. Palatal foramina rather narrow and little open. Mesopterygoid fossa narrow, scarcely broadened in front, very different from those of *cervinus* in this respect, but agreeing with those of *mitchelli*. Bullæ rather large.

Incisors of all the specimens, old and young, markedly opisthodont, their index commonly about 51° to 56° .

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 109 mm.; tail 135; hind foot 32; ear 21.

Skull: greatest length 30; condylo-incisive length 28; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals 10; interorbital breadth 5.2; breadth of brain-case 15; palatilar length 13.3; palatal foramina 5.6×1.8 ; breadth of mesopterygoid fossa 1.7; length of bulla 6; upper molar series 5.1.

Hab. Region of Alexandria, Northern Territory of Australia. Type from 35 miles S.W. of Alroy, about $135^{\circ} 40'$ E. and $19^{\circ} 30'$ S. Alt. 800'.

Type. Old female. B.M. no. 6. 3. 9. 35. Original number 151. Collected 29th July, 1905, by W. Stalker. Presented by Sir W. Ingram and the Hon. John Forest. Fifteen specimens examined.

From Mr. Troughton I further gather that there are no specimens in Sydney recognized as authentic examples of Sturt's *conditor*, and I have therefore again had to consider how to deal with the *Notomys* skull referred to in the last paragraph of my 1921 paper on the genus.

The locality of this skull was the Darling Downs, a region high up on the Dividing range in about latitude 28°, while the original home of *conditor* was near Laidey's Ponds, on the Lower Darling, near its junction with the Murray, at a distance of something like 600 miles from the Darling Downs, at a lower altitude and in a much more desert-region.

Under these circumstances, to identify our Darling-Downs skull with *conditor* would be mere guesswork, and I therefore propose to describe it as new :—

Notomys mordax, sp. n.

Size about as in *N. gouldi*, but the general build stouter throughout. External characters unknown. Skull broad, strongly built, with widely open anteorbital foramina and broad frontal region. Interorbital space comparatively broad. Palatal foramina long, well open, extending back past the anterior root of *m*¹. Mesopterygoid fossa fairly broad, but not specially broadened anteriorly, its sides practically parallel. Bullæ rather small for the bulk of the animal, though slightly larger than in *gouldi*; conspicuously smaller than in the large *longicaudatus*.

Teeth large and heavy. Incisors orthodont, unusually broad and strong, as broad but not as deep as in *longicaudatus*, flatter and less bevelled in front.

Measurements of the type-skull :—

Greatest length 33·5 mm.; condylo-incisive length 30; zygomatic breadth 19·3; nasals 12·6; interorbital breadth 5·9; breadth between outer corners of anteorbital foramina 9·7; breadth of brain-case 16·7; palatilar length 15; palatal foramina 6·8 × 2·1; breadth of mesopterygoid fossa 2·4; length of bulla 7; upper molar series 6·3.

Hab. Darling Downs, S. Queensland.

Type. Adult skull. B.M. no. 46. 4. 4. 65. Gould Collection.

Readily distinguishable from all species of which the skull is known by its robust build and heavy incisors.



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