

XXXVI.—*Descriptions of Two new Sciuropteri discovered by Mr. Charles Hose in Borneo.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Sciuropterus Thomsoni, sp. n. ✓

Similar in size and essential characters to *S. Horsfieldi*, but with the general colour of the head and upper surface dark smoky brown, finely grizzled with dull buffy white, this latter colour replacing the bright fulvous or rufous found in the allied species. Underside whitish or pale fulvous. Ears, hands, feet, and tail as in *S. Horsfieldi*, or, at least, as in "*S. Davisoni*"*, for the type of *S. Horsfieldi* is so faded that the colours cannot be determined with certainty. Mammæ 6.

Skull and dentition as in the allied species. No upper $p.^3$ present.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh by Mr. Hose):—

Head and body 231 millim.; tail 199; hind foot 37, with claws 40.5; ear 22.

Skull: greatest length 46.5; basilar length 37; greatest breadth 29.6; nasals 13×7.2 ; length of upper molar series 9.2.

Hab. Baram District, Eastern Sarawak. Type from the Bakong River.

Type. Female. B.M. no. 99.12.9.34. Collected August, 1897, and presented by Charles Hose, Esq. Three specimens examined.

By the request of Mr. Hose I have named this very handsome flying-squirrel, which is distinguished from its only near ally by its very different body-colour, after Mr. Thomson, the energetic Managing Director of the Borneo Company.

Sciuropterus Hosei, sp. n.

Size small, about as in *S. setosus*. Fur as usual very soft and fine. General colour above dark, the tips of the dorsal hairs washed with fawn or rufous fawn; flanks and top of parachute from wrists to ankles black, the lighter tips to the hairs disappearing laterally. No special tufts of bristles on cheeks or round ears. Centre of face like back; a darker line running through eye to base of ear; below this the cheeks are pale rufous white; behind posterior base of ear a prominent white patch. Ears very long and narrow, nearly twice the length of those of *S. setosus*. Under surface dull white, with a slight rufous tinge, but how much of this is

* Described and figured P. Z. S. 1886, p. 74, pl. vi.

due to the action of spirit it is impossible to say; hairs of chin, chest, and middle line of belly whitish to their roots, those of sides of belly and under surface of parachute slaty black. Mammæ 4. Upper surface of hands brown, some lighter hairs present on the wrist; feet also brown, but the ends of the digits white. Tail markedly distichous, its middle line brown above nearly to the end, its long lateral hairs brownish fawn proximally, gradually darkening to black till within half an inch of the tip, when the whole end of the tail abruptly changes to white.

Skull short, broad, with a curious short conical muzzle, in this way somewhat similar to Dr. Jentink's figure of the skull of *S. setosus*, but the shortness of the muzzle even more marked. Brain-case broad and rounded. Bullæ of normal size. Incisors strong, deep antero-posteriorly, rather more thrown forward than usual. Cheek-teeth rather small; premolars not disproportionally different in size, the three anterior teeth increasing quite equally from the small *p*.³ to *m*.¹. Molars smooth and rounded, their crests low and scarcely wrinkled.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female, measured in spirit):—

Head and body 87 millim.; tail 98; hind foot 20, with claws 21.5; ear 17.5 × 9.

Skull: greatest length 28; basilar length 21.4; greatest breadth 18.8; nasals 8.2 × 4; interorbital breadth 7; palate length from henselion 11.5; diastema (to front of *p*.⁴) 6.3; length of upper tooth series (from front of *p*.⁴) 3.8.

Hab. Baram District, Eastern Sarawak. Type from the Toyut River; a second specimen from Lobok Nibong.

Type. Female. Skinned from spirit. B.M.no.99.12.9.85. Collected and presented by Charles Hose, Esq.

This striking little species, unique in the possession of a white-tipped tail, was first found by Mr. Hose many years ago, but it could not then be described owing to a doubt as to whether it might not be the Sumatran *S. platyurus*, Jentink, a species with the ordinary dark tail. Now, however, not only has Mr. Hose sent two and seen two more Baram specimens, all alike with white-tipped tails, but the Museum owes to the kindness of the late Mr. Theo. C. Barclay a topotype of *S. platyurus*, and this shows that the two are really quite distinct.

The second specimen sent by Mr. Hose, also an adult female, is rather smaller than the type, but shares all its essential characters. The type was *enceinte*, containing two embryos, one in each uterus.



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