

adult pelage. Under surface, from lips and chin to anus, inner sides of limbs, and whole of hands and feet pure snowy white, the hairs white to their roots, except just on the chest, where they have slaty bases. Ears of medium length, grey. Tail longer than the head and body, sharply bicolor, blackish above, pure white below.

Skull as compared with that of *M. s. arianus*, Blanf., rather smaller, and with decidedly smaller teeth.

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

Head and body 93 millim.; tail 102; hind foot 21; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 25·5; basilar length 19·6; inter-orbital breadth 3·8; palate length 11; palatal foramina 4·8; length of upper molar series 3·2.

*Hab.* Near Sheoul, Fars, Persia. Altitude 5200 feet.

*Type.* Male, young adult. B.M. no. 2. 10. 1. 14. Collected 15th May, 1902, and presented by Harry F. Witherby, Esq.

This is evidently a desert form of the *Mus sylvaticus* group, its snowy-white belly distinguishing it from every described race. Its nearest geographical ally, *M. s. arianus*, Blanf., from Kohrud, N. of Isfahan, has also markedly larger teeth.

I have named this pretty mouse in honour of Mr. Witherby, to whom the National Museum owes examples of several interesting Persian mammals.

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#### LXVI.—*Two new Australian Small Mammals.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

##### *Mus ferculinus*, sp. n.

An insular form of the West-Australian *M. nanus*, Gould.

Size about as in *M. nanus*. General colour pale greyish brown, paler than in *M. nanus*; head darker brown than the back. Ears rather short, laid forward in a spirit-specimen they only just reach to the posterior canthus of the eye. Upper surface of hands and feet dull greyish white; fifth hind toe short, reaching without claw barely to the base of the fourth; external metatarsal pad of soles almost or quite obsolete; internal metatarsal oval. Tail rather shorter than the head and body, very finely scaled (14–15 rings to the centimetre), finely haired, brown above, dull white below.

Skull about as in *M. nanus*.



Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 96 millim.; tail 93; hind foot (s. u.) 23 7; ear 12·5.

Skull: greatest length 27; basilar length 20·6; zygomatic breadth 14·5; nasal length 9·7; interorbital breadth 4; palatal foramina 5·6; diastema 6·4; length of upper molar series 5·2.

An older specimen has a head and body length of 103 millim.; tail 93; hind foot 24.

*Hab.* Barrow Island, N.W. Australia.

*Type.* Young adult female. B.M. no. 2. 10. 10. 7. Collected by Mr. Tunney, and presented by the Perth Museum, Western Australia. Five specimens examined.

I owe to the kindness of Mr. B. H. Woodward, Curator of the Perth Museum, the opportunity of describing this Barrow Island rat, which appears to be a pale insular form of Gould's *Mus nanus*.

*Sminthopsis crassicaudata centralis*, subsp. n.

A pale desert form of *S. crassicaudata*.

General colour pale "isabella," finely grizzled with brown, clearing on sides to "cream-buff," sharply defined from the snowy white of the underside, where, however, the hairs are as usual all slaty based. Muzzle and sides of face dull creamy white; median frontal and nuchal area darker, edged on each side, round the bases of the ears, with buffy; a white spot behind the posterior base of each ear. Hands and feet pure white. Fine hairs of ears and tail white, the greyish skin showing through. Tail apparently rather longer than in typical *crassicaudata*.

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

Head and body 79 millim.; tail 63; hind foot (s. u.) 15·5; ear 22.

Skull: basal length 23; combined length of three anterior molariform teeth 4·7.

*Hab.* Killalpanima, Lake Eyre East, desert region of South Australia.

*Type.* Male. B.M. no. 2. 9. 8. 7. Collected 21st June, 1902, and presented by H. J. Hillier, Esq.

Native name in Diari language "chooda-chooda."

This is the central desert representative of *S. crassicaudata*, and shows the usual desert pallor. Its tail, as already pointed out by Prof. Spencer\*, is rather longer than in ordinary coast specimens.

\* Horn Exp. ii. p. 31 (1896).



Thomas, Oldfield. 1902. "Two new Australian small mammals." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 10, 491–492.

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