

different. Dr. Johnston's species is *Arabella iricolor*, Mont., whereas the present is a *Notocirrus*, the structure of head, foot, and bristles all diverging.

Another very active small form was procured under a stone in a tide-pool at Herm, but unfortunately it has been lost. The head was smoothly rounded in front and of a brighter reddish orange than the rest of the body, which was dark orange with the dorsal blood-vessel shining through. The segments were very minutely dotted as if punctured. The tail had two longer and two shorter cirri.

LXXVII.—On the Occurrence of *Acomys* in Cyprus.

By DOROTHY M. A. BATE.

WHILE in Cyprus in 1902 I procured a number of specimens of a spiny mouse, a genus which had not previously been recorded from this island. On comparing it with the species in the collection of the British Museum, it proves to differ from all these, and apparently belongs to a hitherto undescribed form, which I therefore propose to name

Acomys nesiotes, sp. n.

Size and general appearance as in *A. dimidiatus*, but at once distinguishable by its very much shorter tail, which in the mature animal measures considerably less than the head and body, while the reverse usually obtains in *A. dimidiatus*.

The Cypriote mouse is represented by a series of thirteen specimens—six, caught in May, June, and July, being very young; one, caught in October, is full-grown, though still retaining its immature coloration; and the remaining six are fully adult. In no. 156, which is taken as the type of the species, the whole of the underparts and the upper surfaces of the hands and feet are pure white, and there is a patch of light hair at the external base of the ear-conch. The flanks are "wood-brown" * and the back a mixture of "wood-brown" and grey, the latter more predominant than in *A. dimidiatus*. The speckled appearance of the greater part of the dorsal region is due to the colour of the hairs and spines, which are pale grey or almost colourless for the greater part of their length, and tipped with dark grey or

* Colours given in inverted commas are taken from 'A Nomenclature of Colours,' by Robert Ridgway (Boston, 1886).

"wood-brown," which also continues for a short distance along the edges of their distal ends. Intermixed with and projecting beyond these are a few long fine hairs. The spines, which extend over the hinder half of the back, resemble those of *A. dimidiatus* in being cylindrical at the base, then suddenly expanding they become laminate and taper to a point. Seen in section the edges are found to be folded downwards and inwards; thus the ventral aspect of the spine is deeply grooved, whilst the upper surface is very slightly rounded. The roots of the spines appear as a dark patch on the inner surface of the skin, which elsewhere is very white. The tail, which is thicker for its length than that of the above-mentioned species, is pale below, "mouse-grey" on the upperside, scantily covered with short stiff hairs, and has a terminal tuft of finer ones.

The skull is slightly more robust than that of *A. dimidiatus*, its greatest length being 32·5 to 33 millim. and its extreme width 14 millim.

The following measurements, in millimetres, of the adult specimens were taken in the flesh :—

	Head and body.	Tail.	Hind foot.	Ear.
No. 153 (♀)	130	93	22	20
No. 155 (♀)	111	72	20	21
No. 156 (♂, type) ..	119	71	18	19
No. 158 (♂)	109	..	19	19·5
No. 159 (♂)	110	..	19	20
No. 160 (♀)	106	..	20	19

The young differ from the adult in their upper parts being entirely "mouse-grey," with the exception of white hands and feet, and in their tails being comparatively longer. The young of *A. dimidiatus* seem to develop the speckled appearance of the mature animal much earlier than those of *A. nesiotus*; a half-grown specimen of the former in the collection of the British Museum is already changing colour, while a full-grown young of the Cypriote form is still an almost uniform "mouse-grey" above, shading off into "drab-grey" on the flanks.

As in other members of this group—*A. cahirinus*, for instance,—the tail is exceedingly brittle, it, or its skin, becoming detached on very slight provocation, though less easily in the case of the young. This also happens when the mouse is in a wild state, for several tail-less specimens were brought to me which had evidently lost this appendage some time previously. No doubt this peculiarity, as in the

case of the lizard, must be of use to the rodent when pursued by shepherds' dogs, birds of prey, or other enemies, though, unlike the lizard, it is unable to repeat the manoeuvre.

These mice were caught alive in traps baited with bread by villagers, who said they were very scarce, though there appeared to be no difficulty in getting as many as I required. They also told me that their holes are very deep and that they are never found in houses, though said to haunt the "mandras" (caves and shelters for goats) in the hills.

They were all caught in the Kerynia Hills, not far from the village of Dikomo. This portion of the south side of the range, which is composed of a grey limestone, is extremely barren, strewn with stones fallen from the rocks and cliffs, and sparsely clothed with low and generally thorny plants. The undulating ground and plain lying below are for the greater part of the year arid and practically destitute of vegetation. Remains of this mouse were found in the earth of a cave in the same locality. I never met with or heard of it in other parts of the island, though probably it occurs at any rate over the whole of the Mesorœa, or central plain, and the southern slopes of the Kerynia Hills.

LXXVIII.—*Notes on the Natural History of East Finmark.*

By Canon A. M. NORMAN, M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.,
F.L.S.

[Continued from p. 173.]

[Plate XIII.]

POLYZOA.

I HAVE in the following paper on Polyzoa extended the scope of the subject beyond the limit of East Finmarkian species, in order to introduce matter relating to classification and observations on some Arctic and other species. The species which have been found in East Finmark have been numbered, and such species as have no prefixed number will be understood not to have connexion with the fauna of that district.

Herr F. A. Smitt, in 1865-74, published his 'Kritisk Förteckning öfver Skandnaviens Hafs-bryzoer.' This work contained an admirable series of illustrations of Scandinavian and Arctic Polyzoa. The figures, though small, were excellent, and they have been and must continue to be



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