

the species ; but, as no attention has been paid to the sexual characteristics in the species hitherto described and few species have been recognized, it may be more general than appears. I have found it only in *Cherostus Walkeri*, *cornutus*, and *jamaicensis*. The importance of the tibial prolongations is also at present uncertain. Lacordaire's second species, *Eutomus madagascariensis*, is said to bear these on the middle legs only, for which reason he regarded it as forming a distinct section of his genus. This may necessitate the formation of a third genus if the feature is found to have the importance attached to it by him.

The description of the larva of *Rhipidandrus fungicola* by Friedenreich is interesting, in view of the extremely divergent views which have been held as to the proper location of the group. The body is bent like that of most *Lamellicornia*, but there are only nine abdominal segments, which are not larger than the thoracic, and the terminal one ends in a pair of pointed processes. There are five ocelli on each side of the head, and the labial palpi are said to be three-jointed. All these characteristics exclude the insect from the ranks of the *Lamellicorn* *Coleoptera* and conclusively point to its relationship to the lignivorous *Malacodermata*. This additional light is of value in settling the question as to the true systematic position of an enigmatical type of insect which has been referred to no less than four of the suborders of *Coleoptera*.

The "Heptaphyllini" being eliminated, it remains true for the *Lamellicornia* that a primitive five-jointed tarsus is the most invariable of their characteristics, probably the only exception being a very few obviously degenerate forms such as *Stenosternus* and *Phycochus*, which are among the most abnormal of all *Coleoptera*.

VI.—*New Sciurus, Rhipidomys, Sylvilagus, and Caluromys from Venezuela.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

*Sciurus flammifer*, sp. n.

A very large species allied to *S. igniventris*. Belly white. Tail ochraceous. General colour of body above of the same speckled or grizzled yellowish as in *S. igniventris*. Head and ears rufous. Chin pale rufous. Rest of underside and inner sides of limbs pure sharply defined white, edged on each side with a narrow line of orange-rufous. Outer side of limbs rich rufous, becoming orange-rufous on the digits.

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Tail long, not so bushy as in some members of the group, its hairs for the proximal six inches ringed basally with black and dull yellow, with broad flaming orange tips, which gradually spread downwards till on the terminal half of the tail the hairs are wholly orange to their bases. Mammæ 8.

Skull stout and heavy, its muzzle not abnormally narrow.

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

Head and body 285 mm.; tail 313; hind foot, s. u. 65, c. u. 70; ear 31.

Skull: greatest length 68; basilar length 53; zygomatic breadth 40; nasals  $21 \times 10.5$ ; interorbital breadth 23; palate length 29.5; length of upper tooth-series 10.1.

*Hab.* La Union, Caura district, Lower Orinoco.

*Type.* Female. B.M. no. 4. 5. 7. 28. Original number 308. Collected 24th October, 1902, by Mr. S. M. Klages. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. One specimen in normal pelage, and a second, presumably the same, showing a partially melanoid condition, with blackish tail and black belly.

This fine squirrel is most closely allied to *S. igniventris* (type locality Marabitanas, Rio Negro), but differs by its pure white instead of bright red under surface and by the wholly orange-red colour of the terminal half of the tail. The latter character will also distinguish it from the geographically more distant *S. tricolor* and *S. castus*, the only other white-bellied members of the group. *S. igniventris tædifer* (Upper Rio Meta), with a somewhat similar tail, has, like its typical subspecies, a wholly red belly.

*Rhipidomys venezuelæ fervidus*, subsp. n.

Stronger coloured and with smaller teeth than true *R. venezuelæ*.

General colour above uniform rich fulvous (near "tawny ochraceous"); under surface pure sharply defined white. Outer side of limbs like body, inner sides white; hands buffy white, with a slight touch of brown on the metacarpus; feet similar, but the centre of the metatarsus more decidedly brown. Tail uniformly brown, hairy and pencilled terminally as usual.

Skull very similar to that of true *venezuelæ*, but the interparietal shorter antero-posteriorly and the palatal foramina rather longer, extending fully to the level of the front edge of  $m^1$ . Teeth as usual, but decidedly smaller than in the typical form.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 130 mm.; tail 135; hind foot (wet) (s. u.) 27; ear 17.



Skull: greatest length 32.5; basilar length 26; inter-orbital breadth 5.5; interparietal  $4.7 \times 9.7$ ; palate length 13; diastema 8.5; palatal foramina 7; length of upper molar series 4.5.

*Hab.* La Union, Lower Orinoco.

*Type.* Male. B.M. no. 4. 5. 7. 34. Original number 305. Collected 23rd October, 1902, by Mr. S. M. Klages. Two specimens, adult and immature.

The large number of the common *R. venezuelæ* of Merida with which I have been able to compare this animal agree in the uniformly larger size of their molars, and also average much paler in colour.

*Rhipidomys rosilla*, sp. n.

A small rufous species allied to *R. dryas*, Thos.

Size about as in *R. dryas*, or slightly larger. Fur close, straight, and crisp, hairs of back scarcely more than 5 mm. in length. General colour above rich tawny, the crown and anterior back more greyish and heavily lined with black, the rump and hips deep uniform tawny. Throat and chest white. Belly buffy ochraceous, paler mesially, an area of richer ochraceous tawny edging the darker colour of the sides; but there is no sharp line of demarcation. Inguinal region and inner side of hind limbs white. Ears of medium size, brown. Upper surface of hands and feet dull buffy white. Tail rather short for this genus; uniformly brown, well-haired, pencilled terminally.

Skull very much as in *R. dryas*, the palatal foramina rather larger.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the dry skin):—

Head and body 109 mm.; tail 101; hind foot (s. u.) 20.5; ear 13.5.

Skull: greatest length 28; basilar length 21.3; zygomatic breadth 15.5; nasals 9; interorbital breadth 5; breadth of brain-case 12.8; palate length 11.7; diastema 7.4; palatal foramina 5.4; length of upper molar series 3.8.

*Hab.* La Union, Lower Orinoco.

*Type.* Old male. B.M. no. 4. 5. 7. 37. Original number 310. Collected 26th October by Mr. S. M. Klages. Two specimens.

This pretty species is readily distinguishable by its small size and rich colour. Its only near ally, *R. dryas*, from Ecuador, has the belly pure white, without any trace of the unusual ochraceous suffusion characteristic of the present animal.



*Sylvilagus meridensis*, sp. n.

A small dark-coloured species allied to *S. andinus*.

General appearance very much as in *S. andinus*, the dorsal colour rather darker (approaching "olive"); a warmer brown tone along the middle of the back. Fur longer throughout. Frontal region like back; cheeks similar, but greyer, without prominent markings; hinder part of orbit inconspicuously lighter. Ears very short, their basal third furry like the head; front part of outer surface brown; inner surface dull buffy. Nape dull greyish rufous, but little contrasted with the general colour. Under surface dull soiled buffy, not sharply defined laterally, the ends of the belly-hairs, especially in the inguinal region, dull buffy, with the grey bases showing through. Arms dull tawny outside, the hands richer tawny, but changing occasionally into white on the digits; inner aspect of arms dull buffy. Hind limbs similar, the rump and legs scarcely more rufous than the back, the feet dull tawny. Tail quite minute, coloured like the body, rather blacker above.

Approximate dimensions of the type (from skin):—

Head and body 350 mm.; tail 10 (?); hind foot (s. u.) (wet) 72; ear (wet) 50.

*Hab.* Sierra de Merida, Venezuela.

*Type.* B.M. no. 4. 5. 14. 1. Collected by S. Briceño and presented by Oldfield Thomas. Two specimens.

This little hare, or "rabbit" as it would be called in America, is closely allied to the *S. andinus* of the Ecuadorean Andes, but differs by its rather darker general colour, its soiled buffy instead of nearly white belly and hind feet, and the absence of any tawny suffusion on the rump and hind legs.

Young specimens of *S. meridensis* were received some years ago, and I was enabled to mention the occurrence of a species of this group in the Sierra de Merida; but the present are the first adults that have been obtained, and even now, unfortunately, no skulls have been sent with them. The cranial characters are, however, no doubt very much as in *S. andinus*.

*Caluromys trinitatis leucurus*, subsp. n.

Size as in *C. trinitatis* and *C. t. venezuelæ*, therefore far smaller than in *C. philander*. Fur close and velvety, the hairs of the back only about 9 mm. in length. General colour of the same dull tone as in *venezuelæ*, near "clay-colour," the crown more rufous. Face grey, the dark median line unusually prominent. Under surface and inner side of limbs pale buffy, the dark of the sides encroaching on the







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