

ON TWO NEW SQUIRRELS FROM THE INNER GULF OF SIAM.

BY C. BODEN KLOSS, F.Z.S.

In January 1915 I paid a short visit to Koh Si Chang* in the Inner Gulf of Siam and at its conclusion (having no time to go on myself to the next island) sent my collectors to Koh Phai.

Koh Si Chang has been regarded of late as the type locality of *Sciurus finlaysoni*, but in looking through the history of that name it becomes evident that this is a mistaken view and that it applies to the white squirrel of the Siamese mainland.

Sciurus finlaysoni was described by Horsfield in 1824 (*Zoological Researches in Java*) from specimens collected by Dr. George Finlayson, the naturalist who accompanied Crawford in his mission to Siam and Cambodia. It is evident that Horsfield, when erecting the species, had in mind the mainland animal, for he says that it is Buffon's "Ecuriel blanc de Siam" which was seen at Lonpeen, a village situated in the extensive forests of Siam, by P. Tachard in his travels. The account of the species closes with an extract from Finlayson's manuscript describing the white squirrel which ends "one of the specimens was shot by Lieut. Rutherford on the Islands called Sichang in the Gulf of Siam." It is once more obvious that Finlayson, too, was dealing with the mainland animal and that this reference to the island example was merely a detail as to extent of range.

Further Horsfield, in the *Catalogue of the Mammalia in the Museum of the East India Company, 1851*, again gives the locality of a specimen of *S. finlaysoni* as Siam, while Anderson who personally studied all the types of what he regarded as varieties of *Sciurus ferrugineus* states (*Zoological Research in Yunnan*, p. 244) that "the type of *S. finlaysoni* was obtained in Siam by Dr. Finlayson and another was procured by the same traveller in Sichang Id."

* Koh (Siamese) = Island.

This view of the case is much more satisfactory than the opinion held by recent workers, for the type of the *finlaysoni* group will then be one of the mainland animals and not a degenerate island form, which on account of its small size and rather yellower colour, requires a separate name and may be known as:—

Sciurus finlaysoni portus.

Sciurus finlaysoni, Anderson, loc. cit. supra; Flower (partim) *P. Z. S.* 1900, p. 355; Wroughton, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 8, vol. II, p. 398 (1908); Gyldenstolpe (partim) *Arkiv för Zoologi*, Band 8, no. 23, p. 11 (1914).

Type. Adult male (skin and skull) No. 1938/CBK. Collected on Koh Si Chang, Inner Gulf of Siam, 26th January, 1915.

Characters. Like *S. finlaysoni finlaysoni* of the Siamese mainland but smaller and rather yellower.

Colour. Ivory yellow throughout, most intense on the upper surface and tail; but paler, almost white, on sides of head, chin and forelimbs. Skins of nostrils, lip, ears, soles of both feet, genitals black. Eyes black. Vibrissae black.

Measurements. Ear 17.5* Skull: basilar length 36.5, braincase breadth 21.7, proximal breadth of nasals 3.3, distal breadth of nasals 6.6. For other measurements see table p. 161. Ears of the series 17—19 mm.

Specimens examined. Twenty-seven; fifteen males and twelve females, all from the type locality.

Remarks. I found *S. f. portus* very common on Koh Si Chang and very fearless. Its small size is due to its insular habitat and to the poverty of the vegetation, large scrub rather than forest, with which the island is covered. It runs busily about the stems and branches, often almost descending to the ground, in its search for food. The pelage of many of the animals obtained is considerably abraded and in every case has a sticky feeling very different from the smooth glossy hair of other squirrels, while both as skins and in the flesh a peculiar characteristic odour attaches to them.

In the series a number of animals have black vibrissae like the type, in an equal number the vibrissae are pure white, while some have

*All measurements in millimetres.

them black and white mixed. In about half the series the hairs of the distal half of the tail are black tipped.

S. finlaysoni finlaysoni has been recorded by Anderson from the mainland, by Flower from the Banpakong River, by Bonhote from the Menam at an altitude of 75 metres, by Wroughton from the Menam and Cambodia, and by Gyldenstope from the Korat Plateau.

Sciurus finlaysoni folletti.

Type. Adult female (skin and skull) No. 1991/CBK. Collected on Koh Phai, Inner Gulf of Siam, 2nd February, 1915.

Characters. Pelage generally greyish yellow; size small.

Colour. Hairs of pelage above deep neutral grey at base, at tips ivory yellow, top of head slightly deeper yellow; the sides of head, fore and hind limbs greyer owing to decrease in the yellow element, probably due to wear. Below, the base of the fur is light grey and the yellow tips are less distinct. Axillae and groin slightly washed with tawny. Toes of fore and hind feet blackish, the hairs only slightly tipped with yellow. Tail above rather paler than back, below slightly yellower, the distal half obscurely banded grey and ivory yellow: the tip blackish. Vibrissae black.

Skull and Teeth. Do not differ from the Koh Si Chang race of *S. finlaysoni* either in size or characters.

Measurements. Ear 21, Skull: basilar length 36.6, braincase breadth 22, proximal breadth of nasals 3.4, distal breadth of nasals 6. For other measurements see table p. 162. Ears of the series* 19—23 mm.

Specimens examined. Thirty-eight; seventeen males and twenty-one females, all from the type locality.

Remarks. This squirrel is subject to a certain amount of variation. When the pelage is abraded, as is frequently the case, the dorsal region is considerably darker and greyer than as given above. In some animals there is no tawny wash on axillae and groin, in others these areas are pale chesnut and the lower abdomen is also suffused with this colour.

One example has the tail ivory white throughout as in *S. finlaysoni portus* from the neighbouring island, two or three have the tip only darkened, while in a number of the specimens the tail is throughout

* Measured by native collector.

obscurely and coarsely banded dark and light. There is also a tendency to a slight darkening along the median line of the under-surface which is, though very indistinctly, margined from the colour of the sides.

In size this race most nearly approximates among mainland animals to *Sciurus floweri*, Bonhote (*Ann and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 7, vol. VII. p. 455, 1901), but, as Mr. Bonhote himself has noted, the affinities of that species are not very clear so that for the present I prefer to treat the Koh Phai animal as a race of *S. finlaysoni*. In colour there is a partial resemblance to certain phases of *S. bocourti*, Milne Edwards (Wroughton, *loc. cit. supra*), but the presence of a white tail in several examples indicates a connection with the Koh Si Chang squirrel.

I have named this island race after Mr. C. B. Follett, Superintendent of Police in charge of Koh Si Chang and Koh Phai, whose assistance rendered it possible for me to send collectors to the latter island from Koh Si Chang after I returned to Bangkok.

MEASUREMENTS OF *SCIURUS FINLAYSONI PORTUS* IN MILLIMETRES.

Locality	Sex	Head and Body	Tail	Hind foot	SKULL								Collector's No.	Remarks
					Greatest length	Condyllo-basilar length	Palatilar length	Diastema	Upper molar row	Inter-orbital breadth	Zygomatic breadth	Median nasal length		
Koh Si Chang, Inner Gulf of Siam	M	180	190	44	45	39	19	10.3	9	15	26.5	11.8	1917	Adult
" " "	M	179	166	42	45	37.7	19	10	9.1	15	25.6	12.4	1918	"
" " "	F	190	193	44.5	47.5	39.3	19.2	10.4	9.2	15.4	27.7	13	1923	Aged
" " "	M	181	176	42	45	37.4	18.3	10	8.8	15.6	26.6	13	1925	Adult
" " "	F	200	190	45	47.7	41	20	10.4	9.5	16.7	28	12	1935	Aged
" " "	M	197	183	44	46.3	39.5	19.5	10.7	8.7	16.7	27.5	12.6	1938	Adult, Type
" " "	M	202	183	43	45.9	39	19.7	10.6	9	16.4	26.7	12.2	1939	"
" " "	M	195	190	43.5	46.4	39.7	19	10.7	9.2	16.4	27	11.8	1948	"
" " "	F	197	180	43.5	47	39.8	19.3	10	9.5	17	27.3	11.8	1950	Aged
" " "	F	197	173	42	46.3	39.3	19.5	10.6	9.2	16	27	12.2	1950	Adult
" " "	F	190	185	41.5	45	38.5	19	10	9	15.8	26.8	12.1	1952	"
" " "	F	186	192	44	46.2	39.7	20	10.7	9.3	16.5	27.7	11.6	1954	"

MEASUREMENTS OF *SCIURUS FINLYSONI FOLLETTI* IN MILLIMETRES.

Locality	Sex	Head and Body*	Tail*	Hind foot*	SKULL								Collector's No.	Remarks
					Greatest length	Condyllo-basilar length	Palatular length	Diastema	Upper molar row	Inter-orbital breadth	Zygomatic breadth	Median nasal length		
Koh Phai, Inner Gulf of Siam	F	194	168	40	46	39	19	10	9.1	16.4	28.2	12.5	1972	Adult
" " "	M	187	165	40	45	38	18.5	9.9	8.5	15.5	27.9	12.3	1976	Aged
" " "	M	191	142	41	46	38.8	18.5	9.9	9.2	17.2	27	12.9	1978	Adult
" " "	F	184	152	39	46	38.3	18.8	9.9	9	17	28	11.7	1982	Aged.
" " "	F	192	177	42	46.3	40	19	10	9	17	28	13	1991	Slightly aged. Type
" " "	M	186	129	41	45.4	38.5	18.3	10	9	16.4	27	12.1	1994	Adult
" " "	F	192	166	42	46.5	39.3	19	10	9	16.6	27.1	13	1995	"
" " "	F	186	168	39	46.5	39	19	10.3	9.2	16.2	27.2	13.5	2000	Aged
" " "	M	170	160	41	45.2	38.6	19	10	9.1	16.3	27.3	12.8	2001	"
" " "	M	190	157	40	45.5	38.5	18.9	10	8.9	16.5	27.1	12.2	2002	"
" " "	M	194	175	41	46.9	39.7	19.2	10.1	9.2	18	27.8	12	2003	"
" " "	F	197	171	41	46	38.4	18.5	9.8	9	16.7	27.2	13	2005	Adult

* Measured by native collector.