

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. The Porcupine of Tenasserim and Southern Siam.

BY OLDFIELD THOMAS, F. Z. S.

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The National Museum owes to Mr. C. Boden Kloss a first typical set of the fine collection of mammals from S.E. Siam, of which he has been giving an account to the Zoological Society. Among these there is a Porcupine, which for want of material for comparison he has asked me to work out for him, and I have at the same time examined the other specimens that the Museum contains from the same region.

Porcupines from the Burma-Siam area have been sometimes referred to *Acanthion brachyurus*, Linn., and sometimes to *A. bengalensis*, Blyth, the latter being unfortunately an animal of which no one seems to have modern specimens available for comparison.

In his original account Blyth says of it "general colour as in *A. hodgsoni*; the quills generally having the basal half white, the rest black, most of them with a white tip more or less developed." This description no one would apply to the more southern animal under notice, for in them the black ring on the quills is in length only from one-third to one-fifth of the white tip, whereas Blyth's account obviously suggests that the greater part of the terminal half of the quill is black, and only just the tip white. This latter condition is found in *A. hodgsoni*, and would fulfil his statement as to the general colour. Possibly, indeed, *bengalensis* is not distinct from *hodgsoni*, but this must be settled later.

A. bengalensis being thus eliminated, all the porcupines in question—those of Burma, Siam, and the Malay Peninsula—are practically identical externally, with a small brown and white crest, greater than in *hodgsoni*, far smaller than in *leucurus*, and have the main body-spines buffy white, with a median blackish ring. The nuchal crest is rather less developed in the Malay animal, but the difference is not great.

In the skulls, however, I find that two forms are readily distinguishable—the one from the Malay Peninsula (true *brachyurus*) and the other from Tenasserim and Siam. These may be diagnosed as follows:—

ACANTHION BRACHYURUS, Linn.

Syn. *A. grotei*, Gray †.

† It is useless to try and allocate Gray's names *flemingi* and *bartletti*, based on specimens of doubtful locality and asserted to be menagerie hybrids.

Size smaller, condylo-incisive length less than 130 mm. (see table of measurements on p. 68). Nasals comparatively small and frontals correspondingly large, the length of the frontal suture over 55 per cent. of that of the nasals. Supraorbital edges tending to the development of a fairly definite postorbital process. Size of teeth and other proportions as indicated by the measurements.

A good figure of the skull of this porcupine has been given by Bonhote ‡.

Hab. Malay Peninsula. Type-locality and also that of *A. grotei*, Gray—Malacca. Good skulls examined from Mabek, Jalor (*Robinson and Annandale*), Malacca (*Cantor*), and Singapore (*Ridley*).

ACANTHION KLOSSI, sp. n.

Size larger, well-developed skulls attaining a condylo-incisive length of 140 mm. Nasals large, their length more than twice that of the comparatively short frontal suture. Interorbital region broad, swollen, convex, with scarcely any indication of a postorbital projection. Skull-measurements in table on p. 68.

Hab. Southern Tenasserim and Southern Siam. Type from Tenasserim Town, other specimens from Bankachon, Tenasserim (*Shortridge*), S. Siam, 12° N., 99° 50' E. (*K. G. Gairdner*) and Klong-Yai, S.E. Siam (*C. Boden Kloss*).

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 14. 12. 8. 223. Original number 4905. Collected by G. C. Shortridge. Presented to the National Collection by the Bombay Natural History Society.

This species is distinguished from *A. brachyurus* by its shorter frontals and longer nasals and the lesser development of postorbital processes.

I have named the species in honour of Mr. Kloss, who noticed and drew my attention to its difference from *A. brachyurus*, and himself collected the specimen from S.E. Siam.

Anderson's *Hystrix yunnanensis* has markedly shorter nasals than any of the porcupines here referred to.

The Chinese porcupine, *Acanthion subcristatus*, Swinh., has a skull very like that of *A. klossi*, but its coloration appears to be more as in *A. bengalensis* and *hodgsoni*.

No. II. A new Binturong from Siam.

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Among a collection of mammals from South-western Siam presented last year to the National Museum by Mr. K. G. Gairdner there occurs a fine binturong's skull, so conspicuously larger than any

‡ Fascic. Malay. I. pl. iii. (1903).