

ON A NEW MONGOOSE FROM SIAM.

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Mungos siamensis, nov.

Types:—Adult female (skin and skull) No. 2101. Obtained at Muang Prae, North Siam, on 11th May 1916, by Messrs. Williamson and Smith's collectors.

Adult female (skin and skull) No. 2469. Obtained at Lat Bua Kao, East Siam, on 18th Sept. 1916, by Mr. W. J. F. Williamson's collector.

Colour. Dull phase (No. 2101):—Pelage of the upper surface annulated; median area of back warm sepia and buffy white, the former changing to mummy brown on the sides; the short underfur of the same colour as the dark annulations but tinged with greyish. Fore and hind-feet speckled tawny and blackish; fore-limbs washed with tawny, their outer sides dark. Muzzle to nape deep ferruginous speckled with black, the muzzle blackish; space between eye and ear speckled paler ferruginous; ears tinged with ferruginous; lower cheeks clear bright tawny; chin and throat clear tawny buff, hairs of the rest of under surface of body greyish brown at base, buffy at tip, not annulated. Tail rather paler below than above, the median line washed with tawny especially at base and tip.

Bright phase (No. 2469):—In the rufous phase the whole of the upper surface is suffused with deep ferruginous (burnt sienna on the median line of back, rich tawny brown on sides and tail) and the short under-fur is also richer in colour than in the dull phase: but on the longer hairs the red is confined to the distal portions, so that buffy white annulations are still present basally and show through the red suffusion. Entire under surface of body and limbs ochraceous-tawny to tawny sharply margined: median line of tail below clear rich tawny.

Skull and teeth. Do not appear to show any special peculiarities.

There are slight differences in the skulls of the types, that from Lat Bua Kao being smaller and rather less aged with smaller bullae but greater post-orbital breadth: the termination of the palate is dentate

and the pterygoids are more parallel; but these may be taken for the present as coming within the range of individual variation.

Measurements. See table p. 217.

Specimens examined. Three, the cotypes and another adult female from Muang Prae in the dull phase.

Remarks. The two dull examples from North Siam were taken in May and are exactly alike, but the traces of bright colour occurring on limbs and under surface of tail indicate, I think, that they possess a bright phase and that the specimen from near Korat, taken in September, is merely an example of this and not a distinct race.

At my request Mr. Oldfield Thomas has compared one of the Muang Prae specimens with the type of his *Mungos auropunctatus birmanicus* in the Natural History Museum; he writes "It does not appear to be *birmanicus* being distinguished by its reddish head, this in the Burma species being concolor with the body as in the ordinary Indian Mongoose. I think we should now use a binomial for *birmanicus*".

More recently the Indian Museum has lent me an example of a Burmese Mongoose obtained at Sawadi. The skin is somewhat fragmentary but it agrees with Mr. Thomas' statement in having no red on the head. The pelage is shorter and less harsh than in the Siamese animals but the soft under-fur is much denser while the annulations of the longer dorsal hairs are much narrower, deep buff in colour and only two in number.

The Burmese skull is a little smaller than the others but its post-orbital breadth agrees with the Lat Bua Kao example: its only other differences, apart from size, seem to lie in the closer approximation of the bullæ, which also diverge rather less posteriorly; the smaller size of the foramen magnum; and the narrow, parallel-sided interpterygoid space. The teeth are similar except that p^4 and m^4 are shorter and more compact.

Mungos siamensis is probably closely allied to *M. rubrifrons* of Hainan, which I only know from description (Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXVI (1909), p. 240-2) and of which the external dimensions seem very similar save for a larger hind-foot (60 mm., s. u). The Siamese form, however, is not grey in colour and has no shade of oliva-

ceous present while the under-fur is not blackish at the base; the dorsal hairs in *rubrifrons* have only two narrow pale bands (as in *birmanicus*), in *siamensis* there are five—one being basal. *M. rubrifrons* seems to have a modified rufous phase but is apparently altogether a duller animal, the pale phase being greyer and the bright less ferruginous.

Measurements in millimetres of *M. siamensis* and *M. birmanicus*.

	2101 ♀ co-type	2100 ♀	2469 ♀ co-type	Sawadi, Burma
Head and body	343	327	344	...
Tail	255	296	262	...
Hind-foot, s. u.	56	55	55	...
Ear	26	26	27	...
Skull:--				
Greatest length ¹	70.0	69.4	67.4	65.0
Condyllo-basal length ²	68.8	68.0	66.0	63.3
Basal length ³	64.7	63.7	62.3	61.0
Palate length ⁴	37.2	37.0	36.0	35.0
Upper tooth row (c—m ²) alveolar	25.6	25.0	24.6	24.0
Basi-cranial length	26.7	26.0	24.3	24.1
Palate breadth at m ¹ (external alveolar)	20.8	20.5	21.0	19.9
m ¹ —m ¹	9.0	9.0	9.6	9.2
Rostral breadth above canines	13.0	11.5	10.8	11.0
Post-orbital constriction	9.1	9.2	11.1	11.1
Cranial breadth	23.5	23.0	23.8	23.0
Mastoid breadth	24.7	...	24.0	23.8
Zygomatic breadth	33.0	30.8	32.7	30.3
Greatest length of bulla	15.3	15.0	15.2	15.0
" breadth across bullae	24.4	24.0	23.0	23.0
" basi-occipital breadth	6.8	6.4	7.1	5.6
" breadth of m ¹	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.0
" " pm ⁴	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.9
" length " "	7.0	6.9	6.4	6.4
" diameter " " (diagonal)	7.9	7.2	7.5	7.1

1 Front of præmaxillaries to back of occipital crest.

2 " " to " " condyle.

3 " " " front of foramen magnum.

4 " " " termination of palate.