

ON A NEW MURINE GENUS AND SPECIES FROM SIAM.

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Tautatus, genus nov.

Skull with superficial resemblance to *Mus* but the rostrum shallower and no masseteric knobs at the anterior bases of the zygomatic plates. No raised supraorbital ridges, the edges even more rounded than in *Mus*. Palatal foramina long, extending posteriorly well between the first molars; palate extending beyond the posterior extremities of the last molars. Mesopterygoid space normal, slightly diverging posteriorly. Bullae of medium size.

Incisors with no trace of a notch in the bevelled edge. Upper molars with proportions as in *Mus*, m^1 being longer than m^2 and m^3 combined. Laminae of m^1 less distorted, the inner tubercles less posteriorly situated. The remaining molars of more angular outline: the anterior edge of m^2 straighter, owing to the more advanced position of the antero-internal tubercle; the internal edge short and followed by an oblique postero-internal edge almost concave: antero-internal point of m^3 forming the apex of a markedly triangular tooth.

External characters apparently not peculiar: fur dense, rather long and stiff, but not mixed with flattened spines. Hindfoot with fifth toe reaching to the middle of the basal phalanx of the fourth. Only the pollex with a flat nail. Ears of medium size. (The number of mammae and plantar pads cannot be ascertained).

The place of this genus in the synopsis for a few of the Indian Muridæ given by Thomas (in Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., XXIII, p. 415) would be after *Mus* as follows, presuming 6 plantar pads:—

*b*⁵ Bevelled edge of incisors not notched.

No frontal ridges.

*a*⁶ Palatal foramina shorter. Masseteric
knobs present *Cealomys*.

*b*⁶ Palatal foramina longer. Masseteric
knobs absent *Tautatus*.

Genotype : *Tautatus thai*, sp. nov.

Type (and only specimen examined). Female, young adult (skin and skull). Collected at Raheng in February 1917, by Mr. K. G. Gairdner. Author's number 2616/C.B.K.

Diagnosis. Base of upper fur deep neutral grey : pelage of two kinds :—longer hairs (9 mm.) with long dark tips, and shorter hairs (6 mm.) with very short dark tips and broad subterminal annulations of ochraceous-tawny ; the general colour effect being a grizzle of ochraceous-tawny and dark brown, the latter most marked on the back.

Entire underparts of head, body and limbs, together with the region of the vibrissae and sides of throat and neck, clad with hair having grey bases and white tips, producing an effect of silvery white, clearly margined. Forelimbs grey above : hands and feet clear white. Inner sides of ears sparsely clad with greyish hair, backs with proectote ochraceous-tawny. Vibrissae black and white. Tail blackish above and clad with dark hairs, below pale and clad with whitish hairs : at mid-length 22 rings to the centimetre.

Cranium globose ; rostrum only very slightly convex ; nasals rather pointed posteriorly and, viewed in profile, slightly concave ; palatal foramina narrowed posteriorly and reaching a line joining the antero-internal tubercles of m^1 ; bullae not flattened at all.

Measurements. Head and body, 64 ; tail, 72 ; hindfoot, s. u., 17.5 ; ear, 12.5.

Skull :—greatest length, 20.9 ; condylo-basilar length, 18.5 ; basilar length, 16.9 ; palatilar length, 9.5 ; length of palatal foramina, 4.5 ; diastema, 5.2 ; upper molar row (alveoli), 4.0 ; greatest length of nasals, 7.0 ; combined breadth of nasals, 2.1 ; depth of rostrum between extremity of nasals and posterior alveolar edge of incisor, 2.5 ; interorbital constriction, 3.8 ; greatest cranial breadth, 10.0 ; zygomatic breadth (approximate), 10.8.

Remarks. Whether this animal is the same as *Mus nitidulus* Blyth,* it is impossible to say at present as the type has disappeared and no other specimens have been obtained : though the colouring was apparently very similar it was a larger animal with the tail equal in

* Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal XXVIII, p. 294.

length to the head and body (82 mm.).

The present individual has skull measurements which are practically those of the type of *Mus viculorum* Anderson,* from the Kakhyen Hills near Bhamo, which Thomas in 1881 regarded (together with *Mus kakhyenensis* Anderson, from the same district †) as synonymous with *Mus urbanus* Hodgson, the Indian form of *Mus musculus*: it is rather smaller than the type of *kakhyenensis* but has apparently the same silvery underparts, though otherwise differing in colour from it and also from *viculorum*.

* Anat and Zool. Researches in Yunnan, p. 308.

† op. cit., p. 307.