

AN ADDITIONAL SPECIES OF SQUIRREL,
PETINOMYS VORDERMANNI, IN THAILAND

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In the recent volume by Boonsong Lekagul and Jeffrey A. McNeely, *Mammals of Thailand*, Association for the Conservation Wildlife, Bangkok, 1977, LI + 758 pp, one of the small flying squirrels, *Petinomys vordermanni* Jentink in Notes of the Leyden Museum, XII, 1890, p. 150, was not listed for Thailand. THOMAS (1916) reported this species from Tenasserim Village, Burma on the Malay Peninsula. Although THOMAS (1916) described this specimen as a new species, *Pteromys (Petinomys) phipsoni*, CHASEN (1940) recognized it as being no more than a sub-species of *Petinomys vordermanni* Jentink. MUUL & LIM (1971) collected large numbers of this species from Peninsular Malaysia, where this species seemed to be locally abundant in secondary forests, including mixed aged rubber plantations interspersed with fruit trees. Nests were most often found in dead trees in woodpecker holes or behind loose bark.

Two specimens of this species have also been collected on the Thai side of the Malay Peninsula. One female is now in the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH), BM 17.1.26.1 (2472) which was collected in Bang Nara (Narathiwas), near Pattani on 9 July, 1906, by C.B. Kloss. The second is a male collected in the same locality in 1917, by C. J. Aagard. It is part of the collection of the Raffles Museum in Singapore (No. 2577). This collection has been transferred to the University of Singapore. Both specimens agree closely in coloration with the type of *Petinomys vordermanni phipsoni* (Thos.) and specimens collected in Malaysia.

The female is an adult with 4 discernible mammae. The measurements on the label are given as 120-110-21-18 (Head and body-tail-hind foot-ear), however, the ear measurement is probably 13, miswritten as 18. No skull was found in the collection which matched the skin. The measurements of the male were written on the label as 111-104-23-14.

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The only other species with which *P. vordermanni* could be confused externally are *Hylopetes lepidus*, which is larger, and *H. platyurus* which is about the same size as *P. vordermanni*. Both of the *Hylopetes*, however, lack the fine, long hairs present around the ears in *P. vordermanni*. The cheeks of *P. vordermanni* are a deep orange in adults, duller in immatures. In *Hylopetes lepidus* the cheeks are paler and in *H. platyurus*, silvery gray. The tail of *Hylopetes* is feather-like and constricted at the base, whereas in *P. vordermanni*, although flat as in *Hylopetes*, the tail is fuzzier, not obviously distichous dorsally, and not as constricted at the base. In the skull of *Petinomys* the auditory bullae are flat and recessed, and the bullar septae are honey comb shaped. In *Hylopetes* the bullae are round and inflated, and have only two transverse septae.

Although only two specimens of *Petinomys vordermanni* have been collected, I am confident more will be discovered with appropriate collecting techniques. This species avoids traps, but it can be found if sought in small tree cavities, sometimes behind loose bark, 1 to 3 meters from the ground. I would expect on the basis of the collection locality of the Burmese specimen and the habitat affinities of this species in Malaysia, that its distribution extends at least as far north as Prachuap Khiri Khan.

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Petiomys vordermanni Jentink

