



GEORYCHUS KAPITI, NEW SPECIES

Natural size

A NEW RODENT OF THE GENUS GEORYCHUS

BY EDMUND HELLER

FIELD NATURALIST, SMITHSONIAN AFRICAN EXPEDITION

WITH ONE PLATE

It has seemed desirable that the more conspicuous new mammals discovered by the Smithsonian African Expedition should be described at once, without waiting for the general account of the collections. This paper contains the first of these descriptions.

GEORYCHUS KAPITI, new species

Types from Potha, Kapiti Plains, British East Africa; adult female, No. 161708, U. S. Nat. Museum; collected by J. A. Loring, May 3, 1909; original No. 6027.

General characters.—Size small, about that of *G. nimrodi*, but skull relatively much larger, the nasals extending posteriorly considerably beyond the premaxillaries; coloration uniform drab-gray with a strong cinnamon-brown wash and without any white occipital patch.

Coloration.—Uniform drab-gray everywhere, the back with a strong cinnamon-brown wash; ears, a spot on each side of snout at base of whiskers, and the long hairs covering the tail, whitish, but not forming any noticeable contrast with adjacent parts; hair everywhere plumbeous gray (about Ridgway's No. 6) at base.

Skull.—Relatively large and wide zygomatically. Nasals extending well beyond premaxillaries. Functional cheekteeth four, the crowns, when worn, subcircular in outline except the last, which has a large posterior prism; fourth cheektooth (m^1) largest, the first functional tooth (pm^2) considerably smaller than the last (m^3). Incisors long and slender, uniformly chalky-white in coloration.

Measurements.—Type: Head and body, 165; tail, 19; hind foot, 33 (29.6); skull, condylobasal length, 42.8; zygomatic breadth, 32.8; interorbital constriction, 8.8; postorbital constriction, 9.0; mastoid breadth, 20.2; nasal, 16.8; diastema, 14.6; depth at middle palate, 15.6; mandible, 33.6; maxillary tooththrow (functional teeth, alveoli), 8.0; mandibular tooththrow (functional teeth, alveoli), 7.0.

This species is apparently most closely related to *nimrodi* of Matabele Land, with which form it agrees in size, in the absence of a

white occipital patch, and in the comparative length of the nasal bones. It differs from this form in the relatively larger skull and hind foot, larger molars, and in the presence of a cinnamon wash on back. It is at once distinguishable from *argenteo-cinereus* of German East Africa and Mozambique by its much smaller size and absence of the white occipital patch.

The series of eight specimens from the Kapiti Plains is remarkably uniform, showing practically no variation in coloration and only such variations in size as are due to age.



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