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A NEW RODENT OF THE GENUS SACCO-
TOMUS FROM BRITISH EAST AFRICA

WITH ONE PLATE

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A NEW RODENT OF THE GENUS *SACCOSTOMUS* FROM
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A species of *Saccostomus* equally distinct from *S. campestris* Peters and *S. mearnsi* Heller¹ is represented by three specimens collected by J. Alden Loring, Field Naturalist of the Smithsonian African Expedition, at Njori Osolali, British East Africa. It is described in this paper, the fifth dealing with the results of the expedition.

SACCOSTOMUS UMBRIVENTER, sp. nov.

PLATE I, a. SKULL, NATURAL SIZE

Type.—Adult female (skin and skull), No. 162612. Collected at Njori Osolali (Sotik), British East Africa, June 26, 1909, by J. Alden Loring. Original number, 6447.

Diagnosis.—Size and general external appearance as in *Saccostomus campestris* and *S. mearnsi*, but differing from the former in the conspicuous plumbeous bases of hairs of underparts and from the latter in the more buffy suffusion of back and sides. Skull with pits near posterior margin of palate minute as in *S. campestris*, but with incisive foramina extending fully half way from maxillo-premaxillary suture to incisors, as in *S. mearnsi*.

Color.—Upperparts an indefinite light brown approaching the wood-brown of Ridgway, lighter and more buffy on sides, darker on back, along middle of which there is a faint clouding of much darker brown; a few longer black hairs on both back and sides, but these not producing any evident effect of "lining"; underparts sharply defined white with a faint buffy tinge, the gray (about gray No. 6 of Ridgway) bases of the hairs everywhere appearing conspicuously at surface; ear dusky with a narrow silvery rim; feet white; tail too thinly haired to have any definite color, the hairs of under surface white, those of upper surface mixed black and white.

¹ Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 54, No. 1924, p. 3. February 28, 1910.

Skull.—The skull agrees with that of *S. campestris* and *S. mearnsi* in general size and aspect. From that of the former as figured by Peters¹ it is readily distinguishable by the much greater forward extension of the incisive foramina, and the narrower interorbital region. From that of the latter it differs in the broader rostrum, more nearly parallel supraorbital ridges, longer, less rapidly divergent pterygoids, smaller ectopterygoid plates, and by the absence of well-defined pits and median ridge at posterior margin of palate, the posterior palatal foramina opening practically on general palatal level.

Teeth.—The teeth agree with those of *Saccostomus mearnsi* and differ from those of the South African species as figured by Peters, in their large size, the greatest transverse diameter of m^1 decidedly more than half greatest width of palate between toothrows. Pattern of enamel folding as in *S. mearnsi*, but reëntrant angles on anterior border of second and third laminae of m^1 and of anterior (second) lamina of m^2 better defined.

Measurements.—Type: head and body, 136; tail, 55; hind foot (dry), 19.6. A second adult female: head and body, 133; tail, 60; hind foot (dry), 19.6. Skull of type: condylobasal length, 33.0;² zygomatic breadth, 17.2; interorbital constriction, 3.8; occipital breadth, 13.8; depth of braincase at middle, 9.0; nasal, 16.4; diastema, 10.4; mandible, 22.0; maxillary tooththrow (alveoli), 6.2; mandibular tooththrow (alveoli), 5.8.

¹ Reise nach Mossambique, pl. xxxv, fig. 12.

² Possibly a minute fraction of a millimeter too short.



a

SACCOSTOMUS UMBRIVENTER MILLER
Type. Natural size

b

SACCOSTOMUS MEARNSI HELLER
Type. Natural size