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TWO NEW AFRICAN RATELS

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Among some interesting Abyssinian mammals, collected and presented to the United States National Museum by the Hon. Hoffman Philip, minister resident and consul general, Adis Ababa, Abyssinia, is a specimen of *Mellivora* which clearly represents a form distinct from any heretofore described. While this specimen was being compared with the material in the Museum collection another undescribed species, represented by specimens from Mount Kilimanjaro and British East Africa, was discovered.

MELLIVORA ABYSSINICA, sp. nov.

Type from vicinity of Adis Ababa, Abyssinia. Cat. No. 171876, U. S. Nat. Mus. Old adult female, skin and skull. Collected in 1909 by Hoffman Philip.

General characters.—Size medium; mantle complete from between eyes to well on to tail; head and back of uniform color; white marginal line of mantle scarcely distinguishable.

Color.—Black, with a uniformly colored dark grizzled iron-gray mantle commencing in a point between the eyes, 45 mm. from nose, widening to ears, and extending in a large oval over entire back, tapering to a point again well out on base of tail. Entire black area with an inconspicuous sprinkling of white hairs. The gray mantle is made up of wholly black and wholly white hairs, and is sharply divided from the black of sides and underparts. A very faint marginal line of lighter gray is barely noticeable along sides of mantle. Width of mantle between shoulders, 115 mm.; at widest point, 175.

Skull.—The skull of the type is slightly damaged about the premaxillæ, and one zygomatic arch is broken, making it impossible to get accurate measurements of length or breadth. It is a very old adult and the teeth are much worn. The following measurements have been taken: Post-palatal length, 60; least interorbital breadth, 32.2; greatest breadth of brain-case, 68.5; length of mandi-

ble, 85; upper tooth row, including canine, 36.5; length of upper carnassial, 11.5; lower molar-premolar series, 32.7; length of lower molar, 13.8.

Measurements of dry skin.—Total length from nose to end of tail, exclusive of hairs, 960; length of tail, 145; length of longest claw, measured with dividers, 44.5.

Remarks.—This ratel is very different from the specimens of *Mellivora ratel* and *M. indica* in the National Museum. From a specimen of *M. ratel* from Cape Colony it most conspicuously differs in its smaller size and the indistinctness of the marginal lines along the mantle. From the descriptions of the type of *Mellivora concisa*¹ from Lake Chad it differs in the completeness of the dark iron-gray mantle, which is unbroken and uniform in color from a point well between the eyes to out on root of tail. It is apparently a slightly larger animal.

MELLIVORA SAGULATA, sp. nov.

Type from Mount Kilimanjaro, East Africa, at 5,000 feet altitude. Cat. No. 171875, U. S. Nat. Mus. Adult male, skin and skull. Collected September, 1889, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

General characters.—A ratel of largest size with mantle complete from between eyes to tail. Differs conspicuously from *M. ratel* and *M. abyssinica* in the decided ochraceous color of the mantle.

Color.—Black, with a mantle of ochraceous tawny from between eyes to well out on base of tail, enclosing a much darker dorsal area. The mantle is pale ochraceous on forehead, darker tawny on nape and along margins; a darker grizzled blackish-brown center begins at neck, and, widening posteriorly, it completely obliterates the marginal line on hips and rump. Width of mantle between shoulders, 135 mm.; at widest point, 245.

Skull.—The measurements of the type skull slightly exceed all available measurements of *Mellivora* skulls.² Condylbasal length, 152; basal length, 140; palatal length, 71.5; post-palatal length, 70.5; zygomatic breadth, 87; least interorbital breadth, 32.4; upper tooth row, including canine, 44; length of upper carnassial, cingulum, 14.5; length of mandible, 98; lower molar-premolar series, 37.8; length of lower molar, 15.

¹Thomas and Wroughton, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1907, p. 376; Pocock, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1909, p. 398.

²The basal length of the very largest skull recorded by Welch (P. Z. S., 1909, p. 888), a male from Grahamstown, South Africa, is 135 mm.

Measurements of dry skin.—Total length from nose to end of tail, exclusive of hairs, 1220; length of tail, 210; length of longest claw, measured with dividers, 39.

Remarks.—The peculiar color of the back is the most striking character in comparing this form with *M. ratel* and *M. abyssinica*, the only neighboring species having the mantle complete from forehead to tail. It also appears to reach the maximum size. A second skin in the Museum collection, from British East Africa, exact locality unknown, agrees with the type in the large size and distinctive color of the back. Doctor Abbott has written on the label of the Kilimanjaro specimen, "Rare upon the mountain."