

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW GERBILLE FROM EASTERN TURKESTAN.*

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Three specimens of *Gerbillus* collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in Eastern Turkestan near Aksu and in the jungle east of Maralbashi have heretofore been referred with some hesitation to *G. przewalskii* Büchner, a species known from a few localities in the Tarim Valley near Lob Nor on the opposite side of the Desert of Gobi. A paratype of Büchner's animal received in exchange from the St. Petersburg Museum shows that the identification of the Aksu specimens is incorrect and that they represent a distinct and easily recognizable species.

Gerbillus arenicolor sp. nov.

Type adult male (skin and skull), No. 62,143 United States National Museum, collected in the jungle on Yarkand River, east of Maralbashi, Eastern Turkestan, February 9, 1894.

Characters.—In size and form similar to *Gerbillus przewalskii* Büchner, but color light sandy gray instead of pale yellowish buff.

Color.—Dorsal surface of body and head a fine sandy grizzle produced by a mixture of pale buff, dark brown, and pale ecru-drab, the brown most conspicuous near median line, but never in excess of the paler

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colors, the ecru-drab especially noticeable on sides, cheeks and shoulders. Ears and ill defined area immediately surrounding each dull white. A whitish spot above and slightly behind eye. Underparts and entire front leg white. On hind leg the color of back extends nearly to ankle. Feet white, slightly gray-tinged. Fur of colored area of pelage gray (Ridgway, No. 6) through a little more than basal half, that of uncolored area white to base. Tail uniform pale buff throughout.

Skull.—The skull closely resembles that of *Gerbillus przewalskii*, but the rostrum appears to be more slender (particularly when viewed from below) and the braincase longer in proportion to its breadth. In each of the three specimens of *G. arenicolor* the mastoid breadth is distinctly less than the distance from posterior edge of interparietal to nasofrontal suture, while in the paratype of *G. przewalskii* it is equal to this distance. Mandible and teeth as in *G. przewalskii*.

Measurements.—External measurements of type: total length, 162; head and body, 89; tail vertebræ, 73; hind foot, 26.4 (24).

Cranial measurements of type: greatest length, 27.4 (26)*; basal length, 24 (23); basilar length, 22 (21); nasals, 9 (8.6); diastema, 8 (7); zygomatic breadth, 16 (15); least interorbital breadth, 6 (6); mastoid breadth, 15 (15); distance from posterior margin of interparietal to nasofrontal suture, 17.4 (15); mandible, 14.8 (14); maxillary toothrow (alveoli) 4 (4); mandibular toothrow (alveoli), 4 (4).

*Measurements in parenthesis are those of the paratype of *G. przewalskii*.