

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BAT FROM GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

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Two bats of the genus *Lavia* collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott at Taveta, German East Africa, in 1889, prove to differ too considerably from the West African *Lavia frons* to be regarded as the same species. They may be known as:

***Lavia rex* sp. nov.**

1892. *Megaderma frons* True, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XV, p. 469, October 26, 1892 (part).

Type from Taveta, German East Africa. No. $\frac{1889}{1889}$, United States National Museum. ♂ adult (in alcohol). 1889. Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—Like the West African *Lavia frons* (Geoffroy) but considerably larger (forearm 60 instead of 56, mandible 17.8 instead of 15.2), and with disproportionately heavier teeth.

Color.—(Skin of topotype, No. 18,992, not sexed): Fur everywhere drab-gray (that of belly a little darker than that of back) tipped with ochraceous-buff. On middle of back and neck and on posterior half of belly the ochraceous-buff is so inconspicuous that it scarcely modifies the ground color, but on face, sides of neck, entire chest and throat, and along border of interfemoral membrane it strongly predominates. At shoulder the wood-brown fades to buffy white, forming an inconspicuous light shoulder spot. The type does not appear to differ appreciably in color from the dry specimen, though it has been subject to the action of alcohol for more than fifteen years.

Ears, membranes, etc.—Probably not different from those of *Lavia frons*. Dr. F. W. True has already noted the peculiar broadened, serrated form

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of the secondary lobe of the tragus in the type specimen as compared with that figured by Dobson and represented by a Sierra Leone specimen in the United States National Museum. In the skin from Taveta this lobe has a form intermediate between the others and closely resembling that of *Lavia frons* as figured by Geoffroy. The variation is probably individual.

Skull and Teeth.—As compared with those of an adult male *Lavia frons* from Sierra Leone (No. 38,196, United States National Museum) the skull and teeth of *Lavia rex* are readily distinguishable by their uniformly greater size and massiveness. In actual form of either skull or teeth there are no striking differences between the two species; but the larger animal has the audital bullæ relatively larger and the interpterygoid space narrower, while the teeth, particularly the upper canines and upper molars, are very considerably increased in size.

Measurements.—Type: Head and body, 70 (60);* tibia, 34 (29); foot, 16 (15); forearm 60 (56); thumb 14 (11); second finger, 62 (55); third finger, 110 (105); fourth finger, 78 (72); fifth finger, 83 (75); ear from meatus, 43.6 (40); ear from crown, 39 (33); width of ear, 28 (26); tragus, 29 (25); noseleaf, 22 (22); greatest width of noseleaf (flattened), 16 (16). Skull: Greatest length, — (23); basal length, — (18); basilar length, — (16); median palatal length, 6.6 (4.8); greatest palatal width including molars, 9.2 (8.2); distance between tips of upper canines, 5.4 (4); mandible, 17.8 (15.2); maxillary tooththrow, 9.2 (8.2); mandibular tooththrow, 11 (9).

* Measurements in parentheses are those of an adult male *Lavia frons* from Sierra Leone (No. $\frac{145120}{38196}$ United States National Museum).