

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ECHINOMYS SEMISPINOSUS*, TOMES,
IN NICARAGUA.

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There is, so far as I am aware, no authentic record of the occurrence of any member of the family *Octodontidae* in Central America. Alston, in his table of neotropical genera in Messrs. Godman and Salvin's *Biologia Centrali-Americana*,* included *Myopotamus* as an inhabitant of Central America, but on a subsequent page withdrew it with the remark: "I very much regret that I have been led into a misstatement." It affords me some degree of pleasure, therefore, to be able to record the occurrence of *Echinomys semispinosus* in Nicaragua. In a collection of mammals recently collected by Dr. Birt in the vicinity of Greytown, and presented to the Museum by the Nicaragua Canal Company, are five specimens belonging to the above-mentioned species.

Tomes' description applies exactly to these specimens, and there can, I think, be no question of their specific identity with the types. Measurements of three alcoholic specimens and of the skulls are given below.

Besides these Nicaraguan specimens of the species, the National Museum possesses three dry skins, Nos. 12900-12902, which were collected by Mr. J. C. Zéledon in Pacuare, Costa Rica, in 1876.

These are smaller than the Nicaraguan individuals, considerably lighter in color, and somewhat less thickly covered with spines, but otherwise identical. It seems probable that they are young individuals of *Echinomys semispinosus*.

In addition to the *Echinomys*, Dr. Birt's collection includes specimens of the following species:

Mycetes palliatus, *Dicotyles labiatus* (jr.), *Sciurus hypopyrrhus* (melanistic), *Bradypus castaneiceps*, *Cycloturus didactylus*, *Tatusia novemcincta*, and *Didelphys opossum*.

Measurements of three alcoholic specimens of Echinomys semispinosus Tomes.

	16354 23252 ♂	16355 23253 ♂	16410 23230 ♂ jr.
	mm.	mm.	mm.
Length of head and body.....	236	258	169
Length of head.....	76	76	55
Length of tail-vertebrae.....	164	169	129
Length of fore foot (with claw).....	32	32	28
Length of hind foot (with claw).....	55	57.5	47.5
Extremity of snout to ear.....	70	63	39
Extremity of snout to eye.....	.....	47.5	21
Height of ear from occiput.....	19	19	17
Height of ear from base of outer margin.....	25.5	27	24
Width of ear.....	19	19	16

* P. xviii and p. 163.

Measurements of the skulls of the same specimens.

	23252 16354 ♂	23253 16355 ♂	23230 16416 ♂ jr.
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
Basiscranial length (Hensel)	45	.....	33.2
Greatest breadth across zygomatic arches.....	29.5	.....	24.0
Length of nasals	23.5	27.0	17.0
Breadth of nasals at anterior end.....	6.5	6.5	.....
Breadth of nasals at posterior end (opposite fronto-maxillary suture) ..	4.0	5.0	3.5
Least breadth between orbits	14.0	.....	12.7
Diameter of orbit from frontal to malar.....	12.0	.....	10.0
Length of upper molar series (crowns).....	9.5	9.5	*6.9
Anterior margin of first molar to posterior margin of incisor.....	14.0	15.2	10.5
Posterior end of palate to posterior margin of incisor.....	22.5	24.0	17.1
Length of lower molar series (crowns).....	10.0	10.5	*7.7
Height of coronoid process	2.0	3.2	1.7
Depth of jaw below condyle.....	13.7	15.5	10.5

* Only three molars are in position.