

## ON THE RODENTS OF THE GENUS SMINTHUS IN KASHMIR.

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ON AN earlier page of the present volume of the Proceedings,\* I referred two specimens of *Sminthus*, collected in central Kashmir by Dr. Abbott, to the species recently described by Dr. Büchler,† under the name of *S. concolor*. I have since had access to Mr. Thomas' description of a new species (*S. leathemi*) from Wardwan,‡ and find it necessary to revise my previous statements. I am now of the opinion that Dr. Abbott's specimens should be regarded as distinct from both *S. concolor* and *S. leathemi*. It may be known from the following description :

### SMINTHUS FLAVUS, new species.

Ears prominent. Tail one and one-half times as long as the head and body. Claws moderate. The thumb with an elongated convex nail.

Upper surfaces dull ochraceous gray, which color is produced by the mingling of the gray of the basal portion of the under fur, the ochraceous color of its tips and the black of the longer and coarser hair. On the sides the coarse black hairs become less and less abundant, leaving the color nearly pure ochraceous yellow. Upper lip and all under surfaces cream-white, the hair being of this color at the extremities and gray at the base. Sides and top of muzzle, and also the ears, chocolate-brown. Backs of the fore feet dusky brown; toes white. Hind feet entirely white. Tail bicolored, brown above and white below, except in the terminal 12 or 15 mm., where it is brown both above and below. Claws white.

Nasal bones of the skull long. Interparietal a little more than twice as wide as long. Incisive foramina ending posteriorly opposite the middle of the premolar. Posterior extremity of the palate on a line with the hinder margin of the last molar, and furnished with a median spinous projection.

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\* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVII, 1894, p. 9.

† Bull. Acad. Sci. St. Petersburg, new ser., III, 1892, p. 107.

‡ Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 6th series, XI, 1893, p. 184.

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Upper premolar a little broader than long. Last molar larger than the premolar, the crown forming an equilateral triangle with convex sides. First upper molar with two outer and two inner cusps, and a small anterior one. Second upper molar with four cusps. Last lower molar elongate.

Dr. Abbott's measurements of one of the skins (No.  $\frac{2}{3}\frac{0}{5}\frac{1}{5}0\frac{4}{3}$ , ♂, type) are as follows: Head and body,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches (69.8 mm.); tail,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches (107.9 mm.). The ear, measured from the base of the outer margin, is 12.5 mm. long.

*Dimensions of skull of type specimen.*

| Skull.                            | Length in millimeters. |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Greatest length.....              | 21.3                   |
| Basilar length (Hensel).....      | 16.0                   |
| Zygomatic breadth.....            | 10.0                   |
| Interorbital breadth.....         | 4.5                    |
| Length of nasals.....             | 8.5                    |
| Length of interparietal.....      | 2.5                    |
| Breadth of interparietal.....     | 7.0                    |
| Length of palate.....             | 8.3                    |
| Length of palatine foramina.....  | 4.6                    |
| Length of upper molar series..... | 3.2                    |

This species differs from *S. subtilis* in the absence of the black dorsal line and the greater length of the tail. I have no skulls of the latter species at command, but from Brandt's figure\* and the remarks made by Mr. Thomas in connection with his description of *S. leathemi*, it appears that *S. subtilis* has the palate much prolonged posteriorly, which is not the case in the species herein described.

From *S. concolor*, Büchner,† the present species differs in the buffy color of the sides of the body and head, the white under surfaces, the brownish fore feet, the white claws, and the coloration of the tail. The whiskers are longer than in *S. concolor*. The upper premolar and last molar are in line with the other molars; and the last molar is also elongated. The nasals are longer. Whether the characters of the palate are the same in *S. concolor* and the species herein described can not be determined at present, as Dr. Büchner makes no mention of this part of the skull.

From the species described by Mr. Thomas, under the name of *S. leathemi*, the present species appears to differ in the yellowish, rather than rufous, coloration of the body, the brown color of the backs of the fore feet, and the uniform brown color of the extremity of the tail on both upper and under surfaces.

Mr. Thomas gives the length of the ear in *S. leathemi* as 8.3 mm., but as he does not specify from what points the measurement is taken it is impossible to say whether the ear in *S. flavus* is shorter or longer,

\* BRANDT, J. F.—Untersuch. Craniolog. Entwicklungsstufen der Nager, pl. ii, figs. 15-21.

†The description of this species was not at hand when I revised my article on Dr. Abbott's Kashmir collection for publication, and I was led into the mistake of regarding the Chinese and Kashmir species as identical.

though it appears to be the latter. The length from the base of the outer margin is about 12.5 mm., which is practically the same length as in *S. concolor*.

The tail is approximately of the same length in *S. flavus* and *S. concolor*, or about one-half longer than the head and body. This proportion is much exceeded in *S. leathemi*, which has the tail one and four-fifths times the length of the head and body.

Dr. Abbott's two specimens were obtained in central Kashmir, at an elevation of 11,000 feet, in July, 1891, about a year earlier than the types of *S. leathemi* were collected. To Dr. Abbott, therefore, is due the first discovery of representatives of this interesting genus in British India.