

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SQUIRREL OF THE *SCIURUS*
PREVOSTII GROUP FROM PULO TEMAJU,
WEST COAST OF BORNEO

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In the summer of 1905 Doctor W. L. Abbott collected on Pulo Temaju two specimens of a squirrel related to *Sciurus prevostii*, but which differ conspicuously from the known members of the *prevostii* group. Pulo Temaju¹ is a small island lying off the west coast of Borneo, about half a degree north of the equator. It is described by Doctor Abbott as "about two and one-half miles long; about four miles from the mainland of Borneo; it is hilly and most of the surface is now planted with cocoanuts." The water between it and Borneo is twelve to fourteen fathoms in depth. At Doctor Abbott's suggestion this squirrel has been named

SCIURUS PROSERPINAE new species

Type.—Skin and skull of adult female, No. 142285, United States National Museum, collected on Pulo Temaju, about four miles off the west coast of Borneo, June 9, 1905, by Doctor W. L. Abbott. Original number, 4180.

Diagnostic characters.—Related to *Sciurus borneoensis* Schlegel; but the usual white side stripes, nearly suppressed, darkened to slate-gray, and the underparts generally the seal-brown of Ridgway.

Color.—Upperparts of head and body, upper surfaces of feet, outer surfaces of legs and basal and terminal sixths of tail, black; underparts of body and inner surfaces of legs, a fine grizzle of a dark reddish-brown and black, producing a general effect of seal-brown. Base of whiskers, a grizzle of black and white, the latter color predominating; cheek spot present, but very inconspicuous; the shoulders faintly grizzled with light buffy; lateral stripe, short, 60–70 mm. in length, about 10 mm. wide; the hairs with black bases and dull white ends, but many are black throughout. The general effect of the stripe at arm's length is slate-gray. The lateral stripe is separated from the seal-brown underparts by a narrow (2–3 mm.), black

¹ Also written Temadjoe and Temadju.

stripe. Basal and terminal sixths of tail, black; the middle four-sixths, a coarse grizzle of black and white.

Skull.—Aside from the somewhat smaller audital bullæ, skulls of *Sciurus proserpinæ* do not differ from skulls of *S. borneoensis*.

Measurements.—Type, No. 142285, United States National Museum, adult female, and paratype, No. 142284, adult male, respectively: Head and body, 233, 235 mm.; tail vertebræ, 230, 235; hind foot, with claws, 59, 61; greatest length of skull, 53.7, 53.9; basal length, 45.5, 45.8; zygomatic breadth, 34.8, 34; interorbital constriction, 22.7, —; breadth of brain-case above roots of zygomata, 24.6, 25; mandible, back of condyle to front of symphysis, 34.4, 34.9.

Specimens examined.—Two.

Remarks.—*Sciurus proserpinæ* differs from the other members of the *prevostii* group in its general melanistic trend. The lateral stripe is not only much reduced, but the underparts are nearly black instead of a reddish-brown or chestnut. The grizzled tail and slight grizzling about the shoulders show it to be related to the nearby *S. borneoensis*, rather than to the other dark members of the group, *S. piceus* and *S. pluto*.