

TWO NEW GENERA OF MURINE RODENTS

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The murine rodents known as *Lemmus schisticolor* and *Cricetulus bedfordiæ* differ so markedly from the types of their respective groups as to require generic separation. In each instance the principal distinguishing characteristics are to be found in the feet.

MYOPUS, gen. nov. (Microtinæ)

Type: Myodes schisticolor Lilljeborg.

Characters: Skull and teeth as in *Lemmus*; general form vole-like, with distinct though short neck, the head not appearing to rest

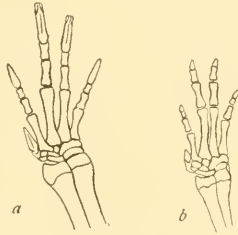


FIG. 86.—Skeleton of forefoot of *Lemmus* (a) and *Myopus* (b). $\times 2$.

between the shoulders; ear well developed though small, with distinct meatal valve; feet slender, normal, the palm and sole with fully developed functional tubercles and no unusual growth of hair; metacarpals of third and fourth fingers slightly longer than phalanges; ungual phalanges of manus normal, much shorter than first and second combined, the claws not enlarged (see fig. 86).

Remarks: The genus *Myopus* is characterized by the combination of the skull and teeth of *Lemmus* with the general body form and non-specialized foot structure of the true voles. It therefore represents in the Old World a stage of development equivalent to that of the American *Synaptomys*. Only the type species is known.

PHODOPUS, gen. nov. (Cricetinae)

Type: Cricetulus bedfordiae Thomas.

Characters: Externally like *Cricetulus*, but feet unusually short and broad, densely hairy throughout, the tubercles of both palm and sole confluent into a single blister-like mass (fig. 87); skeleton of feet shortened, but proportionate lengths of bones not specially modified; skull essentially as in *Cricetulus*, but brain-case less murine in form, unusually broad and deep in front, narrow and low behind; outer wall of infraorbital canal very short, invisible when skull is

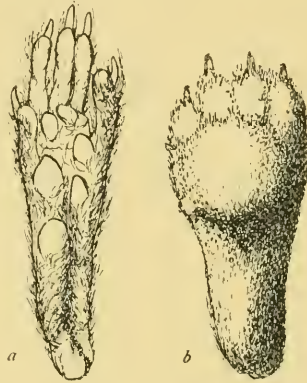


FIG. 87.—Sole of hind foot of *Cricetulus* (a) and *Phodopus* (b). $\times 3$.

viewed from above, its form much as in *Mesocricetus*; pattern of enamel folding more simple than in any of the other Old World *Cricetinae*, the salient angles opposite, the reentrant angles of outer side of maxillary teeth not curving backward, those of inner side of mandibular teeth not curving forward.

Remarks: In its highly modified foot and simple teeth *Phodopus* shows a peculiar combination of primitiveness and specialization. While the type species is the only one that I have examined, it is not improbable that *Cricetulus roborowskii* Satunin should be referred to the same group.