

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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GENERAL NOTES.

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**The subgenus *Rhinosciurus* of Trouessart.\***

In the 'Catalogus Mammalium' (p. 410) Trouessart unites the *Sciurus laticaudatus* of Müller and Schlegel and the *S. davidianus* of A. Milne-Edwards to form the subgenus *Rhinosciurus*† placed at the end of the genus *Xerus*. Material in the United States National Museum shows that the two species are not congeneric, and that neither is closely related to *Xerus*. The genus *Rhinosciurus* (type *R. tupaoides* Blyth‡) is strikingly characterized by its greatly elongated, cylindric, *Tupaia*-like skull and small, slender incisors. The lower incisors are set more nearly in line with the mandibular ramus than in other squirrels, and the upper incisors are so small that in a skull 50 mm. in basal length they scarcely equal those in a skull of *Sciuropterus volans* only 27 mm. long. The '*Xerus*' *davidianus* on the other hand has a skull practically identical with that of the Chinese *Eutamias senescens*, though much larger. Indeed the agreement with *Eutamias* in both cranial and dental characters appears to be complete. Externally, however, the animal resembles *Sciurus* in its well-haired, bushy tail and in the absence of stripes on the body. It also diverges from *Eutamias* in the direction of *Sciurus* in the reduction of the capacity of the cheek pouches. As the animal can therefore be properly referred to none of the recognized groups it may be made the type of a new genus *Sciurotamias*.—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

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†First used by Gray in 1843 (List Mamm. Brit. Mus. p. 195) for a genus with *B. tupaoides* from Singapore as the type. Both generic and specific names are nomina nuda and must date from their earliest definition. The former was properly published by Gray in 1867 (Am. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 3d ser. XX, p. 286), the latter by Blyth in 1855 (Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, XXIV, p. 477) as *Sc[iurus] tupaoides*, type locality Malacca.

‡The relationship of this animal to the Bornean *Rhinosciurus laticaudatus* given by Thomas (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1897, p. 933) as type of the subgenus is not fully understood.