

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW DORMOUSE FROM ITALY.*

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Among the mammals collected in Italy during the summer of 1900 by Mr. Dane Coolidge are five specimens of an *Eliomys* related to *E. quercinus* but differing from it in the color pattern of the tail and in the general coloration of the body. It is not closely allied to the Sicilian *Eliomys pallidus* Barrett-Hamilton, so far as can be determined from the description of the latter.

Eliomys cincticauda sp. nov.

Type.—Adult male (skin and skull) No. 103,030 United States National Museum. Collected at Sorrento, near Naples, Italy, May 31, 1900 by Dane Coolidge. Original number 1118.

Characters.—Size and general appearance as in *Eliomys quercinus*, but dorsal surface light wood-brown, and tail completely encircled by the black subterminal area. Line of demarkation on sides sharply defined and as conspicuous as in *E. quercinus*. Skull and teeth not peculiar.

Color.—Entire upperparts wood-brown (slightly paler than Ridgway's pl. III, fig. 19) brightest on head and on middle of back, inconspicuously sprinkled with blackish hairs, and lightened across shoulders and on sides by a suffusion of pale ecru-drab. The individual hairs are mostly slate-gray (Ridgway pl. II, fig. 5) through a little more than basal half, then pale ecru-drab for a varying distance, followed by wood-brown at tip. Among the hairs of this kind are scattered longer ones that appear to be blackish throughout. The varying width of the ecru-drab and

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wood-brown areas cause the slight differences in color of the back and sides. Color of sides continued down outer side of hind leg to heel and outer side of front leg nearly to wrist. Underparts whitish cream-color, the line of demarkation everywhere sharply defined and the contrasts conspicuous. Black face markings exactly as in *Eliomys quercinus*. Tail sharply bicolor from base to a little beyond middle, creamy white below, wood-brown mixed with white above. Slightly beyond middle there is a rather sudden change both above and below to black. This color continues uninterrupted for a distance of about 20 mm. on lower side and on upper side to base of terminal, nearly clear white pencil. The entire white area at tip of tail is about 10 mm. in length above and 30 mm. below. While the black of the upper surface extends further back than that below, the reverse is true of that of the under side of the tail. This shows a distinct tendency to run forward along the median line and divide the white area into two lateral stripes. Feet dull white. Ears thinly sprinkled with minute whitish hairs.

Skull and teeth.—I can find no tangible characters to distinguish the skull and teeth from those of *Eliomys quercinus*.

Measurements.—External measurements of type: total length, 249; head and body, 136; tail vertebræ, 108; hind foot, 29 (28). A second specimen (♂) from the type locality: total length, 254; head and body, 147; tail vertebræ, 107; hind foot, 30 (29). The hind foot in each of two other topotypes measures 30 (29). One of these specimens is a female.

Cranial measurements of type: greatest length, 34; basal length, 29; basilar length, 26.4; greatest length of nasals, 12.4; greatest width of both nasals together, 4.4; median palatal length, 12.8; greatest breadth of palate between toothrows, 4; diastema, 8; zygomatic breadth, 19; least interorbital breadth, 4.6; breadth of braincase above roots of zygomatica, 14.8; mastoid breadth, 16.6; least depth of rostrum behind incisors, 6; distance from middle of parietal to lower edge of audital bulla, 13.2; mandible, 17; maxillary toothrow (alveoli), 5.4; mandibular toothrow (alveoli), 5.2. Another skull (male) is somewhat larger; greatest length, 36; basal length, 31; maxillary toothrow, 5.8.

Specimens examined.—Five, all from the type locality.

Remarks.—Aside from the different color pattern of the tail this animal differs from *Eliomys quercinus* in the strong wood-brown of the upper parts and the very distinct cream color of the ventral surface. In *E. quercinus* the underparts are clear white slightly tinged with blue, while the white of the tail is all pure. In the Italian animal the only marking that approaches pure white is the terminal area of the tail. From *Eliomys pallidus* this species differs in the brown (not "light powdery-looking gray") underparts, distinct black head markings, sharp line of demarkation along sides, and as the description contains no reference to the color pattern of tail, probably in this character as well.