

### A new name for *Mus atratus* Miller.

The name *Mus atratus* which I recently applied to a rat from the Nicobar Islands (Proc. U. S. National Museum, XXIV, p. 767, May 28, 1902) is preoccupied by *Mus atratus* Philippi (Annales del Museo Nacional de Chile, Entrega 14, p. 57, 1900). It may therefore be replaced by *Mus atridorsum*.—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

### A new name (*Hoplías*) for the genus *Macrodon* of Müller.

The name *Macrodon* was given by Johannes Müller in 1842 for a well-known genus of *Erythrinoid* or *Characinoïd* fishes. Although universally adopted since that time, it must be abandoned for the genus in question, inasmuch as it had been given as early as 1822 by Schinz, as a substitute for *Ancylodon* of Cuvier (1817), another preoccupied name (1811). The new designation *Hoplías* is proposed instead, and *Hoplías taraira* (*Macrodon trahira* Müller) or *malabaricus* is the type.—Theo. Gill.

### The technical name of the Indian Flying Fox.

*Pteropus medius*, the current name for the flying fox of India, is not tenable. It dates from 1827, the year in which Temminck issued the first volume of his 'Monographies de Mammalogie' (the name is proposed on page 176), and, although earlier than Hodgson's *Pteropus leucocephalus* and McClelland's *Pteropus assamensis*, assuming that all three refer to the same animal, is itself antedated by the *Vespertilio gigantea* of Brünnich. This name was published at Copenhagen in 1782, on page 45 of a little-known book, a small quarto volume containing seventy-six pages and seven plates, entitled: "Dyrens Historie og Dyre-Samlingen ndi Universitetets Natur-Theater. Første Bind."\* Although the bat is not among the species figured the description is detailed and accurate. The fact that the account was based on a stuffed specimen from Bengal, while Temminck's animal was collected at Calcutta, removes the last element of doubt as to the equivalence of the names. The common flying fox of India must therefore be known as *Pteropus giganteus*.—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

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\* This work, of which only the first volume appears to have been published, was brought to my attention by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger. The new names that it contains are not mentioned by Fischer, Dobson, or Trouessart, but are all cited by Sherborn.