

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

TYPE OF THE GENUS *ATHERURUS*, BRUSH-TAILED
PORCUPINES.

The latest published statement of the type of the genus *Atherurus* F. Cuvier, so far as I am aware, is that by Dr. T. S. Palmer in his excellent Index Generum Mammalium (North American Fauna, No. 23, 1904, p. 127), where it is erroneously given as *Hystrix fasciculata* Shaw (Gen. Zool. II, pt. 1, 1801, p. 11), from Malacca. By reference to Shaw's descriptions, which are accompanied by good figures showing the peculiar tail bristles of the genera *Atherurus* and *Trichys*, *H. fasciculata* is readily seen to be a member of the genus *Trichys*. F. Cuvier (Dict. Sci. Nat., 59, 1829, p. 483), mentions no type for the genus *Atherurus*, but says of the tail, "est longue et terminée par un faisceau de lanières cornées, aplaties et étranglées d'espace en espace," which agrees with Shaw's figure and description of *Hystrix macroura* Linnaeus based on Seba's *Porcus aculeatus sylvestris* etc. (Seba I, p. 84, pl. 52), and not with Shaw's *Hystrix fasciculata*, the tail of which is "terminated by a tuft of long, flat hairs, or rather small, white laminae resembling strips of parchment." F. Cuvier refers *Atherurus* back to his brother's Les Atherures (Regne Animal, 1829, p. 215), which refers in turn to Buffon (Supplement, VII, p. 303, pl. 77). But Buffon's Malacca porcupine with its parallel-sided tail bristles is clearly Günther's genus *Trichys*, and not Cuvier's "Les Atherures." As the only name available for the porcupine with the beaded tail bristles at the time of Cuvier's description is *Hystrix macroura* Linnaeus, this name should stand as the type of Cuvier's genus *Atherurus*. See Jentink (Notes Leyden Museum, 1894, p. 207), who pointed out the type of *Atherurus* to be Linnaeus' *Hystrix macroura*.

—Marcus W. Lyon, Jr.

NOTE ON *LIMNOMYS*.

In the Annals for March* I founded a new genus for a water-rat from New Guinea allied to *Hydromys* and gave it the name *Limnomys*. But I now find that this name was preoccupied for a genus of Muridae from the Philippines discovered and described by Dr. E. A. Mearns.† I therefore propose to rename the Papuan genus *Drosomys*, its type species becoming *Drosomys asper*.

—Oldfield Thomas.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) XVII, p. 325, 1906.

† Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XXVIII, p. 451, 1905.