

LXIV.—*New Species of Reithrodon, Abrocoma, and Scape-romys from Argentina.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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A. A FURTHER COLLECTION FROM SR. BUDIN.

After making the collection in Jujuy, of which an account was given in February *, Sr. Budin went back to Catamarca, and paid further visits to Chumbicha and Otro Cerro, localities at which he had obtained so many interesting novelties in 1918. Lists of specimens from both places have already been published †, and I now only propose to describe two more novelties from Otro Cerro, additional to the previous list, together with a couple of other new forms of *Reithrodon*.

Attention should be again called to the fact that Otro Cerro is not in Rioja, as erroneously stated in the title to my earlier paper, but is in Catamarca, about 18 km. N.N.W. of Chumbicha.

The discovery of a second Argentine species of *Abrocoma*, quite different from that of Jujuy, is the most noteworthy result of the fresh collection.

Reithrodon caurinus, sp. n.

A buffy rabbit-rat with whitish belly and nearly white tail.

General colour more strongly buffy than usual. Back clay-coloured heavily lined with the black ends to the longer hairs. Sides, or at least a band bordering the under colour, buffy, often ochraceous buff, the rump also more or less of this colour. Under surface whitish, not sharply defined laterally, but almost entirely without the buffy or cinnamon found in all the other species, the sternal region only being dull buffy; hairs broadly slaty at base except in the inguinal region, where they are wholly white. Head and ears with the piebald markings characteristic of the genus particularly well developed. A strongly marked buffy supraorbital line, and distinct patches at the bases of the ears. Proectote blackish; metentote buffy. Hands and feet white; soles more naked than in the southern species, the hairs ceasing entirely behind the posterior pads. Tail white, the darker colour of its upper side reduced to a narrow inconspicuous line.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) v. p. 188 (1920).

† Op. cit. (9) iii. pp. 115 & 489 (1919).

Skull apparently without marked characteristics.

Dimensions of the type :—

Head and body 139 mm. ; tail 99 ; hind foot 30.5 ; ear 25.

Skull : greatest length 36.8 ; condylo-incisive length 33.6 ; zygomatic breadth 19.7 ; nasals 16.6 ; breadth of brain-case 15.6 ; palatal foramina 9.8 ; upper molar series 6.8.

Hab. Otro Cerro, Catamarca. Alt. 3000 m.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 20. 3. 17. 23. Original number 808. Collected 13th November, 1919, by E. Budin. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Seven specimens.

The species of *Reithrodon* are all exceedingly closely allied, so far as the characters of their skulls and teeth are concerned, these being almost the same in all. But the geographical forms may be distinguished by colour and by the degree of hairiness of the soles, the southern *cuniculoides*, *hatcheri*, and *flammarum* having the plantar hairs coming forward to the anterior pair of sole-pads, the intermediate *auritus*, Desm. (with which my *pampanus* is probably synonymous), having the main mass of the hairs ceasing at the posterior pair of pads, but with a certain number of hairs between the pads. Finally, the more northern forms from Uruguay, Corrientes, and now that of Catamarca all have the pad region naked.

In colour all but *caurinus* have the belly mostly buffy, but in *auritus* of Buenos Ayres Province the thighs are white in front.

The type-locality of *auritus* was the Pampas south of Buenos Ayres, and in this region there seems to be no animal but a *Reithrodon* which can be fitted to Azara's description of his "rat oreillard," the basis of Desmarest's *Mus auritus*. My *Reithrodon cuniculoides pampanus* would therefore be a synonym of *auritus*, unless a form with less buffy on the belly proves to occur in the open country just south of Buenos Ayres itself.

But in the less dry south-eastern corner of Buenos Ayres Province there is a duller form, due no doubt to more saturate conditions, which may be distinguished as

Reithrodon auritus marinus, subsp. n.

Essential characters of true *auritus*, but duller throughout, less buffy, the ears almost uniformly dark, without bright buffy metentote, the under surface wholly dull greyish washed with buffy, the inguinal region and front of thighs not white as in *auritus*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 155 mm.; tail 104; hind foot 32; ear 27.

Skull: greatest length 37·5; condylo-incisive length 35; zygomatic breadth 21; upper molar series 7·2.

Hab. Mar del Plata, on the south-eastern sea-coast of Buenos Ayres Province.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 12. 12. 11. 1. Brought home alive by W. A. Smithers, Esq., and presented by the Zoological Society. Lived about a month at the Zoological Gardens. Two specimens from Mar del Plata, and another from "Buenos Ayres" received in 1882 from Mr. A. W. White.

And an exactly similar colour-modification occurs on the north side of the La Plata among the more naked-soled forms. Here the typical *R. typicus* from Maldonado is the dull sea-coast form, and the following the inland one:—

Reithrodon typicus currentium, subsp. n.

General characters of *R. typicus*, with soles similarly naked to behind the posterior pads, but colours throughout more brightly contrasted. Back mixed buffy grey, sides and belly strongly washed with buffy. Area round eyes reaching back to ears and bases of proectote buffy, terminal part of proectote dark brown; metentote buffy. A well-marked patch on sides of neck below ears brown, contrasted with the pale areas round it. Hands and feet white; tail almost white, the usual darker line along its top quite inconspicuous.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 139 mm.; tail imperfect (another specimen 108 mm.); hind foot 31; ear 26.

Skull: greatest length 36·5; condylo-incisive length 34; zygomatic breadth 19; upper molar series 7·3.

Hab. Corrientes. Type from Goya.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 98. 12. 3. 4. Original number 9-1. Collected 23 July, 1895, by Mr. R. Perrens. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

The original type of Waterhouse's *R. typicus*, collected at Maldonado by Darwin, is now much faded, but it evidently never had the well-contrasted markings of the Corrientes form.

Abrocoma budini, sp. n.

A drab-coloured *Abrocoma* with large feet and tail and shorter ears than *A. cinerea*.

Size about as in *A. cinerea*. Fur similarly soft and fine, hairs of back about 17 mm. in length. General colour above near Ridgway's "drab," very uniform everywhere, the back little darker than the sides. Under surface greyish drab, the hairs broadly slaty for three-fourths their length, their tips pale drab; hairs of sternal gland white to their roots. Chin greyish white; underside of neck stronger drab. Head without special markings. Hands and feet pure white, the latter of more normal length than in the curiously short-footed *A. cinerea*. Tail of medium length, iron-grey above, white below.

Skull agreeing with that of *A. cinerea* in the normal minuteness and separation from each other of the posterior palatal foramina, as in the majority of rodents, while in *A. bennettii* and *murrayi* these are of exceptional size and are fused into a single median foramen. Nasals markedly narrowed and pointed posteriorly. Malars not much expanded, but differing from others by being so twisted that, instead of forming a nearly vertical plate, their inner side can be broadly seen from above, facing upwards and inwards towards the supraorbital edges. Interorbital region very narrow, more so than in any other species. Bullæ smaller than in either *A. murrayi* or *cinerea*.

Incisors not so reduced as in *A. cinerea*, about as in *A. bennettii*. Molars of the usual pattern.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 201 mm.; tail 144; hind foot 31; ear 24.2.

Skull: greatest length 50; condylo-incisive length 47; zygomatic breadth 24.5; nasals 20.5×5.5 ; interorbital breadth 6.4; least breadth across brain-case 20; palatilar length 22; diagonal length of bulla 16.2; bimeatal breadth 25; upper cheek-tooth series (crowns) 10.2; dental length 26.6.

Hab. Otro Cerro, Catamarca. Alt. 3000 m.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 20.3.17.62. Original number 817. Collected 15th November, 1919, by E. Budin. Four specimens.

"Caught among rocks, in the clefts of which it lives."—*E. B.*

This fine chinchilla-rat, as Sr. Budin calls it, adds to the genus *Abrocoma* a fourth and very distinct species, readily distinguishable externally by its colour and proportions, and cranially by its narrow interorbital region, small posterior palatal foramina, and the other characters above detailed.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1920. "LXIV.— New species of Reithrodon, Abrocoma, and Scapteromys from Argentina." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 5, 473–476.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222932008632404>.

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