ART. X. A SECOND SPECIMEN OF AN AFRICAN BAT, *PLEROTES ANCHIETAE* (SEABRA)

By Glover M. Allen
Museum of Comparative Zoölogy

Introductory Note

In the spring of 1935 I sent a number of African bats to Dr. Glover M. Allen for study. During the course of his examination he found several interesting specimens, but he was particularly delighted with the specimen of *Plerotes*, Carnegie Museum catalogue number 6,971. He wrote me, under date of June 19, 1935, suggesting that a note concerning this specimen would be desirable. I felt, however, that the note should be written by him, so in reply to his letter I said that, since he was an authority on Chiroptera, a note bearing his name would be much more valuable. He prepared the following account, but under the pressure of other work it was evidently lost or laid aside. Some time after his death his associate, Miss Barbara Lawrence, discovered the note while going through his papers. She recognized its significance, and, having no record of its publication, sent it to me. I, too, was unable to find any record of its having been published, and suggested that, unless she had some other thought on the matter, it could appear in the Annals of the Carnegie Museum. With her permission, therefore, the article appears below as Dr. Allen wrote it. We are indebted to Miss Ruth Lang, of the Carnegie Museum, for the illustrations which accompany the article.

J. Kenneth Doutt

Dr. Allen's account of the second specimen of *Plerotes anchietae* (Seabra)

In 1898 A. F. de Seabra briefly described, and figured the palate ridges of, a small fruit bat from Galanga, Benguela, Angola, as "Epomophorus n. sp.," and two years later named it *Epomophorus anchietae* in honor of its collector, who from time to time secured so many West African species of mammals. The type and only known specimen is a female, mounted, but with the skull extracted, in the Lisbon Museum, Portugal. When Knud Andersen studied the specimen in 1910, he made it the type of a distinct genus, *Plerotes* (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 8, vol. 5: p. 97, 1910), pointing out the interesting fact that it parallels in the subfamily Epomo-

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phorinae the small members of the Macroglossinae, in its weak and very much narrowed teeth, and hence is probably like them a flower and nectar feeder. A full account of the characters of the female type specimen is given in his Catalogue of the Chiroptera in the British Museum (vol. 1, p. 483f, 1912), in which he adds that up to March 1910, no second specimen had turned up and the characters of the male remained unknown. I have therefore thought it worthwhile to record, with the kind permission of Mr. J. Kenneth Doutt, Curator of Mammals in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, a specimen in the collection under his charge which he has submitted to me for identification. It is an adult female, although labeled a male, no. 6,971, from the Malange district, Angola, taken at

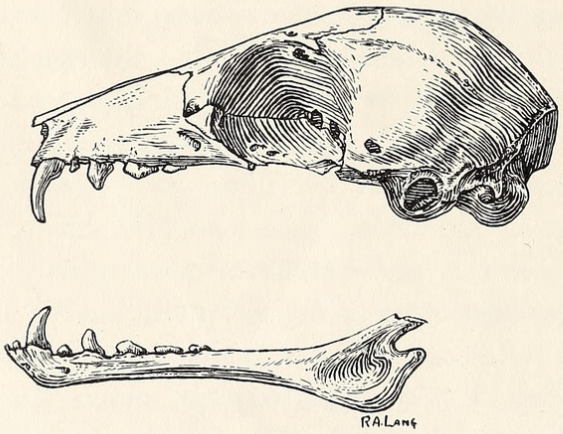

FIG. 1. Side view of skull and mandible of *Plerotes anchietae* (Seabra); Carnegie Museum, no. 6,971.

Chitau, 4900 feet, January 12, 1931, by R. and L. Boulton of the Pulitzer Angola Expedition. In color, it is uniformly drab-brown above, and a much paler drab below, the two surfaces contrasting rather strongly. The fur of the body extends out on the forearm half-way to the carpus, and along the outer side of the radius to the third quarter of the forearm on both dorsal and ventral sides, and similarly on the proximal two-thirds of the propatagium. As in other Epomophorine bats, there is a small tuft of white hair at the antero-internal base of the ear and a larger one at the postero-external border. A rather sharp line of demarcation running forward from the insertion of the wing to the lower cheek separates the color of the back from that of the ventral side, but although the hair just below the edge of the propatagium is distinctly whitish, there is no marked tuft to indicate the presence of a humeral gland. The backs of the hind feet are heavily furred quite to the base of the toes, with a line of brown

hairs along the back of each toe to the claw. A striking feature is the extremely narrow interfemoral membrane, which is almost completely hidden by the long fur of the rump, and extends on each side from about the level of the lower femur to the heel, without, however, an obvious calcaneum. The skull of this specimen agrees closely with Andersen's description except that the minute last lower molar (M_3) which was present in the type, is quite lacking on both sides, without even a trace of an alveolus. While the soft parts remain unknown, it seems likely that the broad

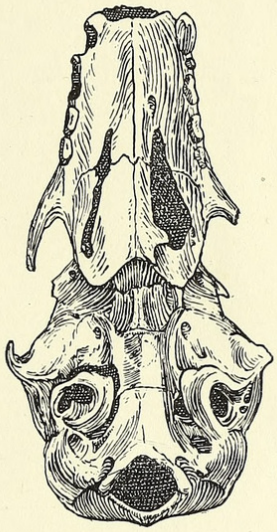

FIG. 2. Ventral view.

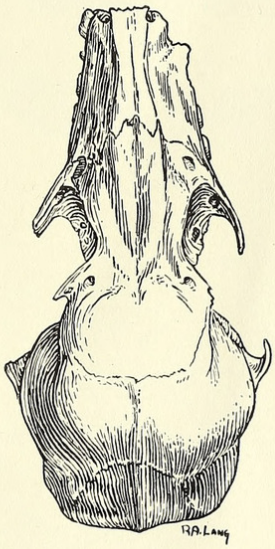

FIG. 3. Dorsal view.

Skull of *Plerotes anchietae* (Seabra); Carnegie Museum, no. 6,971.

palate and anterior space between the canines, as well as the reduced lower incisors, indicate an extensile tongue for nectar feeding. The forearm of the specimen, measured on the skin, is only 47.5 mm., against 53 in the type. The collector's measurements as entered on the label are: total length, 87 mm.; tail, 0; hind foot, 19; ear, 17; wing spread, 343.