

LX.—*Two new Gerbils from Sinai.*  
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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I owe to the kindness of the authorities of the Egyptian Zoological Service at Giza the opportunity of examining a number of small mammals from Egypt and Sinai, and among these there are examples of the two following new species of *Gerbillus* :—

*Gerbillus floweri*, sp. n.

A large species, with comparatively broad skull and large bullæ.

Size of the type, which is old, about as in average specimens of *G. pyramidum*, not so large as the largest examples of that rather variable species. General colour the usual pale "gerbil-colour," the back finely speckled with the minute brown tips to the dorsal hairs; white under surface extending high up on shoulders, and including the whole of the limbs. Soles completely hairy, except just under the heel. Usual postorbital and postauricular white patches distinct. Tail buffy above, white on sides and below; tip missing in type.

Skull proportionally broad, as broad as in a considerably longer skull of *G. pyramidum*. Palatal foramina well open, extending back to the level of the front of the roots of  $m^1$ . Bullæ larger than in any of the Egyptian or Syrian species, longer but less broadly swollen than in the peculiar *G. valinus* of S.W. Africa.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin) :—

Head and body 127 mm.; tail (?); hind foot 35.

Skull : greatest length 34; condylo-incisive length 30; greatest breadth 19; nasals  $13.6 \times 3.3$ ; interorbital breadth 6.7; breadth of brain-case 16; bi-meatal breadth 18.2; palatine foramina 6.5; bullæ, diagonal length 11.8, breadth at right angles to last (exclusive of meatus) 6.8; upper tooth-row (considerably worn) 4.5.

*Hab.* (of type). Wadi Hareidin, extreme northern Sinai, a few miles south of El Arish, about  $31^\circ$  N.,  $34^\circ$  E.

*Type.* Old male. B.M. no. 19. 5. 7. 4. Giza Museum no. 8042. Collected 24th December, 1918, by Capt. S. S. Flower, and presented by the Giza Zoological Service. One specimen.



This gerbil is probably most nearly related to the large Egyptian species *G. pyramidum*, but is distinguished by its broader skull and larger bullæ. It is decidedly larger than the Tripoli *G. tarabuli*.

Named in honour of its discoverer, the well-known Director of the Giza Zoological Museum.

*Gerbillus bonhotei*, sp. n.

Near *G. andersoni*, but with larger bullæ.

Size and other essential characters as in *andersoni*, but, as compared with specimens from the Nile delta, the coloration throughout of the more bright "gerbil-colour" type, the dorsal colour clear light buffy, less brown, and the white, whether of ear-spots, belly, or feet, more vividly white and more extended in area. Soles well covered with hair except on a small spot under the heel. Upper surface of tail buffy.

Skull very much as in *andersoni*, but the bullæ decidedly and uniformly larger.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 97 mm.; tail 123; hind foot 27; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 29.8; condylo-incisive length 26; zygomatic breadth 16.6; nasals 11.1; interorbital breadth 6; breadth of brain-case 14.4; palatal foramina 5.1; bullæ (measured as in the previous species) 11.1 × 6.3; upper molar series 4.

*Hab.* Northern Sinai. Type from Khabra Abu Guzour, S.E. of El Arish. One specimen from Wadi Hareidin.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 19. 5. 7. 5. Original number 887 (8046 of Giza Museum). Collected 25th December, 1918, by Capt. S. S. Flower, and presented by the Giza Zoological Service. Four specimens in all.

This species is evidently the representative from a more strongly desert area of the *G. andersoni* of Lower Egypt, and is readily distinguishable by its larger bullæ. In its brightness of coloration it differs from typical *andersoni*, but is imitated by specimens from the Wadi Natron, which are also brighter than those from the dark soil of the delta. All the Egyptian specimens, however, have the same comparatively small bullæ.

It is named after Mr. J. L. Bonhote, Capt. Flower's colleague at Giza, who has done so much to forward our knowledge of the small mammals of Egypt.



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