

scutellum, and corium thickly finely punctate, apical area of scutellum and disk of corium more or less rugulose.

Long. $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; max. breadth $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Abyssinia; Didessa River, 1400 ft., Gamu, 2800 ft., Nono, 3600 ft. (*Zaphiro*, Brit. Mus.).

Closely allied to the West African *C. funebris*, Fabr., but differing in the colour of the legs and the shorter antennæ, of which the second joint is twice as long as the third.

Genus ASPONGOPUS.

Aspongopus, Lap. (part) Ess. Hém. p. 58 (1832).

Type, *A. janus*, Fabr.

Aspongopus circumcinctus, s.p. n.

Black; lateral margins of pronotum, basal lateral margins to corium, connexivum, and body beneath ochraceous; legs fuscous brown; antennæ black, the basal joint testaceous, second joint slightly longer than third; third and fourth joints subequal in length, fifth longest, cylindrical and pilose; head about as broad as long, the apex broadly truncate, irregularly punctate; pronotum about two-thirds as long as broad at base, the lateral margins moderately ampliate and rounded, very finely and thickly punctate and slightly transversely wrinkled; scutellum about as long as broad at base, very finely and thickly punctate and slightly transversely wrinkled; corium about as long as membrane, wrinkled, but not apparently punctate; body beneath more or less finely darkly speckled or punctate, the central disk of sternum more prominently so.

Long. 12 mm.

Hab. Congo Free State, Kambove, Katanga, 4000–5000 ft. (*Neave*, Brit. Mus.).

XXIII.—*Notes on African Rodents.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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I. *A new Genus of Gerbils.*

Further study shows that the group of small Gerbils which contains "*Gerbillus*" *emini* and its allies, of recent

years placed in *Tatera*, form so natural and distinct a section that they might well be recognized as a special genus, which I would propose to call

TATERILLUS, gen. nov.

External characters as in *Tatera*, but the soles with a band of fine hairs passing across them opposite the base of the hallux.

Skull with the posterior palatal foramina much longer than in other Gerbils, commencing, as a rule, opposite the anterior edge of m^1 and reaching back to the middle of m^2 . Bullæ comparatively small.

Incisors narrow, deeply grooved, strongly bevelled, much more so than in *Tatera*.

Type. Taterillus emini (*Gerbillus emini*, Thos.).

Other species: *T. gracilis*, Thos., *harringtoni*, Thos., and *lacustris*, Thos. & Wrought.

In some respects—in its rather more murine skull and smaller bullæ—*Taterillus* shows an approach towards the smaller Gerbils such as *Dipodillus* and *Gerbillus*, its partially hairy soles perhaps being also an indication of its connexion with the last-named genus.

II. *The Species of Lophiomys.*

In working out some examples of *Lophiomys* from British East Africa, obtained during the recent Rudd expedition, I find that there are two species in that country, and in formulating their characters I have had occasion to go over all the described forms, with results which are here briefly noticed.

The first member of this remarkable genus to be described, *L. imhausi*, M.-Edw., was founded on a specimen purchased alive at Aden, a place to which Somali animals are very commonly brought for sale. The two specimens from Somali in the British Museum, practically topotypes of *L. smithi*, Rhoads, agree so closely in all respects with Milne-Edwards's description that I have no doubt that *L. smithi* should be regarded as a synonym of *L. imhausi*.

The various Abyssinian specimens that have been sent home, chiefly by the Italians, should probably be referred to *L. æthiopicus*, Peters, but if that is yet another species the name *L. bozasi* is available for the Abyssinian form. No detailed description is available of the type of *L. æthiopicus*, which was obtained near Kassala.

In East Africa the type of *L. testudo*, Thos., was obtained by Mr. F. J. Jackson at Ravine Station, and other specimens have since been referred to it. But now examination proves that the type remains unique, and that all the other E. African specimens available belong to a larger species closely allied to the Abyssinian one and itself divisible into two subspecies.

Subjoined are the diagnostic characters of the four species which at present appear to be recognizable.

In drawing them up I have had for examination two specimens of *L. imhausi*, two of *L. bozasi* (including one skull belonging to the United States National Museum), six of *L. ibeanus* (including a U.S.N.M. skull from Nakuru), and one—the type—of *L. testudo*.

Size comparatively large. Frontal region concave. Mesopterygoid fossa long. Anteorbital foramen high, narrow, slit-like. Palatal foramina long. Sides of premaxillæ not or scarcely granulated, except along the edge bordering the nasals. (Abyssinia.)

L. bozasi, Oust. (probably *L. æthiopicus*, Peters).

Size variable. Frontal region more normal. Mesopterygoid fossa long. Anteorbital foramen larger and more open; its outer edge thickened into a ridge, with a large masseteric knob at its lower end. Palatal foramina shorter. Sides of premaxillæ heavily granulated, especially in the fossa just above the incisors. (British E. Africa.)

L. ibeanus, sp. n.

Size and teeth smaller. (Mau Region.)

L. ibeanus ibeanus.

Size and teeth larger. (Aberdare Range.)

L. i. hindei, subsp. n.

Size smaller. Mesopterygoid fossa very short. Anteorbital foramen very small, low, well open, its outer edge practically without strongly marked ridge or masseteric knob. Nasals markedly narrowed in their posterior half, parallel-sided in all the other forms. Incisors narrow, dead white in front, cream-coloured in other species. Line of glandular bristles on sides narrower and less conspicuous than in other species. (British E. Africa.)

L. testudo, Thos.

Size smallest. Mesopterygoid fossa long. Anteorbital foramen comparatively large, well open, its edge ridged and with well-marked masseteric knob. Frontal region prominently white, grey in the other species. (Somali-land.)

L. imhausi, M.-Edw. (syn. *L. smithi*, Rhoads).

The following are the chief diagnostic measurements of the skulls:—

	<i>L. ibeanus</i> .				
	<i>L. bozasi</i> , 25465 U.S.N.M.	Subsp. typ. Type 2. 2. 6. 2.	Subsp. <i>hindei</i> . Type 10. 5. 3. 152.	<i>L. testudo</i> . Type 99. 8. 4. 97.	<i>L. imhausi</i> . 8. 4. 31. 1.
Upper length (tip of nasals to back of interparietal)	62.5	60	62	56.7	55
Greatest breadth	42.5	38.5	42.5	38	35.5
Anteorbital foramen, height	7.5	7.4	7.4	5.2	6.6
Palatine foramina, length	13.3	11	10.7	9.5	10.2
Mesopterygoid fossa, to tip of hamular processes	14	13.4	14	10	13.2
Upper molar series ..	14	12.8	13.8	12.9	11.2

L. ibeanus, the species now described as new, is coloured quite like the Abyssinian form referred to *L. bozasi*, and has equally prominent lateral stripes.

Its skull-characters are as described above, but as the Aberdare specimens are larger and have larger teeth than those from the Mau region, it appears to be necessary to recognize the former as a special subspecies, which may be named *L. i. hindei*, after the donor of the first specimen received by the National Museum. The skull-measurements of both forms are given above.

Type of *L. ibeanus*:—

Adult female. B.M. no. 2. 2. 6. 2. Captured by S. Couper at Mile 513 of the Uganda Railway (between Londiani and Lumbwa Stations) in Mau region; altitude about 7000'. Presented by C. Stewart Betton, Esq.

Another from El-Burgon, presented by C. S. Betton, and a third from the Mau Forest near Njoro, collected and presented by Capt. F. W. Barrett.

Type of *L. i. hindei*:—

Adult female. B.M. no. 10. 5. 3. 152. Original number 801. Collected 15th March, 1910, by Robin Kemp at Mutaragwa, Aberdare Mountains. Alt. 9000'. Presented by C. D. Rudd, Esq.

A second specimen from the same place, now in the Royal Scottish Museum; also an extra skull picked up dry.

Another, the first received by the Museum, from the Aberdare Mountains, without detailed particulars. Presented by S. L. Hinde, Esq.

XXIV.—*Hornless Okapies*. By R. LYDEKKER.

A FEW weeks ago Mr. Rowland Ward had on exhibition at his establishment in Piccadilly the mounted skin of a hornless okapi remarkable on account of its large size, a feature in



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