

vertebral scales on the posterior part of the body. *L. articulata*, Cope, is described as having four pairs of chin-shields.

I seize this opportunity to point out that *Leptognathus copii*, Gthr., is distinct from *L. pavonina*, Schleg. It has the scales in 15 rows, as stated by Günther. The British Museum has recently acquired a second specimen, from Georgetown, British Guiana.

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# XI.—*Notoryctes* in North-west Australia.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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IN 1910 Mr. Stockton, the Keeper of the Post Office at Wollal, on Ninety-mile beach, North-west Australia, captured a specimen of a Marsupial-mole (*Notoryctes*), an animal only previously known from Central and Southern Australia. The specimen was presented by a Mr. S. S. Pryor to the West Australian Museum at Perth, where it has been preserved till the present time.

Now, however, by the great kindness of Messrs. Alexander and Glauert of that Museum, I have been allowed to make an examination of it and to compare it with our series of the more southern *Notoryctes typhlops*.

As is not surprising, considering that its locality is nearly a thousand miles from that of *N. typhlops*, the north-western form proves to be distinct specifically, and may be described as follows :—

## *Notoryctes caurinus*, sp. n.

Size rather less than in *N. typhlops*. General colour above approximately "pinkish cinnamon," slightly paler below. Cheeks, chin, and forearm more cinnamon-buff—in fact, the colour is very much as in Stirling's figure \* of *N. typhlops*. Claws and nasal pad smaller than in the latter.

Skull rather smaller than that of *typhlops*, the reduction in size being mainly in the muzzle, which is both distinctly shorter and has a narrower nasal region, the breadth across the end of the nasals about 2·4 mm. as compared with 3·2 or

\* Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia, 1891, pl. ii.



more. And the nasal opening is also less in height. Palate slightly more imperfect. Bullæ rather larger.

Five anterior upper teeth small and very uniform in size,  $i^1$  scarcely exceeding the others, and the last of the five (probably  $p^1$ ) is a small simple tooth hardly equalling the canine or posterior incisors. In *N. typhlops* this tooth is usually intermediate in size between these small anterior teeth and the much larger  $p^3$  and  $p^4$  behind it.  $I^1$  touches its fellow of the opposite side, while the two are well separated in *N. typhlops*. Last molar— $m^3$ —small, narrow, almost linear, scarcely showing any trace of the structure characteristic of the anterior molars; in *N. typhlops*, on the other hand, the tooth is usually a reduced imitation of those in front of it.

But the chief distinction is in the lower dentition, for *N. caurinus* carries the reduction of the teeth in the anterior premolar region one stage further than occurs in *N. typhlops*. As Dr. Gadow\* has shown, that species varies considerably in the development of the teeth of this region, so that different specimens have in front of the secator (fifth tooth from the back) either three full-sized teeth and a rudiment, four full-sized teeth, or four and a rudiment—in the latter cases the full number of ten lower teeth being present. But in *N. caurinus* there are only three pre-secator teeth, all full-sized and not rudimentary, so that there are only eight teeth in the whole series. And these three teeth occupy but a very short space—2.8 mm.—in correlation with the shortened muzzle of the skull, and there is no special space between the last of the three and the secator next behind it.

In some groups this difference in number would be of generic or subgeneric value; but here, where we have already in the type-species a range of from what we may call  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  teeth, commonly differing on the two sides of the jaw, the further reduction to three is clearly only of specific value. The lower molars are all rather smaller than in *N. typhlops*, but there is no perceptible difference in the structure of  $m_3$ . With the lesser size and smaller number of the teeth the total length of the lower tooth-row forms a very good diagnostic character of *N. caurinus*.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the dried skin):—

Head and body 90 mm.; tail 12; nose-pad  $9.2 \times 5.7$ ; large anterior claw  $13.8 \times 3.3$ ; second large claw  $12.2 \times 6.7$ .

Skull: greatest length 23.7; condylo-basal length 21;

\* P. Z. S. 1891, p. 366.



zygomatic breadth 14·8; breadth across forehead 9·6; inter-orbital breadth 8·3; palatal length 10·5; breadth outside  $m^1$  9. Combined length of five small anterior teeth 4·2; combined length of four molariform teeth ( $p^4-m^3$ ) 4·2; lower tooth-row 8·3 (9·8 in *N. typhlops*); three anterior teeth 2·8; four molariform teeth 4·4.

*Hab.* Wollal, N.W. Australia.

*Type.* Adult female. Skin no. 10442 in West Australian Museum, Perth. Skull transferred by exchange to British Museum, B.M. no. 20. 5. 21. 1. Captured 29th August, 1910.

It is a matter of very great interest to find this anomalous type of marsupial represented by a second species in the far North-west, and the authorities of the Perth Museum are deserving of our gratitude for permitting a comparison to be made of the unique Wollal specimen with the allied form of Central Australia.

## XII.—A new Genus of Echimyinae.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some Amazonian mammals sent for determination by the authorities of the Goeldi Museum, Para, there occurs a single specimen of a Spiny-rat collected by Fräulein Dr. E. Sneathlage on the River Tapajoz, and this proves to represent a new genus of that most interesting group. It belongs to the series of genera related to *Echimys* (better known as *Loncheres*), and, like the greater number of them, is modified for an arboreal life. Its dentition is of the special type, called "reduced heptamerous" by Miller, which crops up so frequently among the hystricomorph rodents, but it represents a phase of development not actually found in the Echimyinae, while somewhat similar to that of *Erethizon* and others.

The animal's external appearance is very striking and quite peculiar to itself.

### LONCHOTHRIX, gen. nov.

Pelage highly spinous. Feet short. Tail tufted.

Skull closely similar to that of *Mesomys*.

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Thomas, Oldfield. 1920. "Notoryctes in Northwest Australia." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 6, 111–113.

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