

Emin says of this animal:—" *Iride nigerrima*. This single specimen found among the high dry grasses. Runs like a Gerbille. Native name 'Gosso.' "

Further examination has convinced me that my reference of this specimen to *M. rufescens* was incorrect, and that the considerable difference in the general body-colour is of sufficient importance to distinguish the two forms.

Dr. Gregory's specimen of *Macroscelides*, above referred to, obtained by him at Kibwezi, British East Africa, is itself of some interest, as, occurring in the neighbourhood of the original locality of *M. rufescens*, it differs from that animal in being of a uniform dirty slate-colour below, with nearly or quite obsolete face-markings, and of a generally much darker tone of colour. In all other respects, however, it appears to be identical, and I am therefore disposed to consider it as being possibly a melanistic example of *M. rufescens*, as its coloration seems so abnormal. Should this prove to be the case, it increases the probability, already suggested by Huet*, that Peters's *M. fuscus*, coloured somewhat similarly, is also founded on a melanistic individual of the ordinary Mozambique form. The dental peculiarities of *M. fuscus*, as described by Peters, seem merely to be due to his having mistaken milk for permanent teeth.

IX.—On a new Species of Armadillo from Bolivia.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE British Museum owes to the kindness of the well-known naturalist Prof. W. Nation, of Lima, a specimen of an armadillo belonging to the restricted genus *Dasypus*, but not referable to any of the previously known species of the genus.

I would propose to term it, in honour of its donor,

Dasypus Nationi, sp. n.

Intermediate in size between *D. villosus*, Desm., and *D. vellerosus*, Gray †, to the latter of which it is probably most nearly allied. Cephalic shield very broad and short, its breadth slightly exceeding its length; its scales proportionally large, smooth, and but little sculptured, their

* *T. c.* p. 10.

† P. Z. S. 1865, p. 376, pl. xviii. (animal); Hand-l. Edentates, p. 19, pl. v. figs. 1 & 2 (skull) (1873).

number just about 100: first nuchal row consisting of 11 scales and extending quite from ear to ear; second row, as usual, forming a complete collar extending from shoulder to shoulder and consisting of 28 scales. Fixed shoulder-shield consisting of three rows in the centre, the middle one of which divides laterally into four or five. Number of rows behind this to the tail 18, of which 8 or 9 appear to be movable. Central scale of the seventh row from the end perforated. Fifth body-row consisting of 39 scales.

Carapace thinly clothed with long scattered hairs, from 1 to 3 inches in length, of a pure white colour. Underneath and between these there are shorter and more numerous brown hairs, which, on the medial line of the back and on the pelvic shield, are in the majority, while on the flanks the longer white hairs are most numerous. Limbs and belly thinly clothed with whitish or pale brownish hairs.

Ears naked, black, somewhat elongate, their length about equal to half that of the cephalic shield. Tail imperfect, its proximal portion very thinly haired, almost naked.

Skull only represented by the muzzle, but this, like the cephalic shield, is of unusual proportionate breadth; nasals large, boldly expanded in their posterior half. Anterior tooth, as in typical *Dasypus*, implanted in the premaxilla, just anterior to the suture.

Dimensions of the type (an adult skin):—

Head and body, length in a straight line 268 millim., over the curves 350; cephalic shield, length 60, breadth in a straight line 61, over the curve 71; transverse length of first nuchal band (straight) 47; ear-length (approximate) 30; length of middle body-band, following the curve, 230; hind foot, length without claws (approximate) 52.

Skull: nasals, length 26.3, breadth anteriorly 7, at narrowest point 6.1, at broadest point 12.6; breadth of anterior nasal opening 8.4; anterior tooth, distance from nasal opening 9; breadth of palate between anterior maxillary teeth 7.6.

Hab. Orujo, Bolivia.

This new species differs from *D. vellerosus* in its considerably larger size, much broader cephalic shield, longer ears, less amount of hairiness, and, in the skull, in the much broader muzzle and nasal opening and in the larger and (posteriorly) more widely expanded nasals. All these characters, and its equally *inferior* size, will also readily separate it from the common hairy armadillo, *D. villosus*.

One other described species needs some reference here,

namely Fitzinger's "*Cryptophractus brevirostris*"* (later *Dasyphractus brevirostris*†), said in one place to come from Chili and in another from Bolivia, and which, although the describer himself considered it the same as *D. vellerosus*, might have been really the present form. The type of the species was at one time in the Vienna Museum; but my friend Dr. von Lorenz kindly informs me that it is no longer there, and we are therefore reduced to Fitzinger's description.

Apart from his own recognition of its identity with *D. vellerosus* (over which he unjustifiably claims priority), this description, and especially the dimensions given, prove conclusively that it really was the smaller southern form, of which the British Museum, besides the type from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, possesses an immature example from Chili. We may therefore dismiss the name *brevirostris* as altogether synonymous with *velerosus*.

X.—*A small Contribution to our Knowledge of the Scorpions of India.* By R. I. POCK, of the British Museum (Natural History).

Family Scorpionidæ.

Scorpio bengalensis (C. Koch).

Since giving a few brief notes about this scorpion in my paper upon the Indian species of Scorpions (J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. vol. viii.), I have come across three other examples of this species, which show that it attains to a greater size than C. Koch's type. These specimens are of a very deep green throughout. The following measurements will show the dimensions and the sexual characters of two of the specimens:—

♀.—Total length 127 millim., of carapace 19, of tail 63; length of palp 71, of hand-back 15, of movable digit 19; width of hand 15, of brachium 7·8.

♂.—Total length 113 millim., of carapace 16·5, of tail 60, of palp 79, of hand-back 16, of movable digit 19·5; width of hand 12, of brachium 7.

* SB. Ak. Wien, xlii. p. 384, 1861 (descr. nulla).

† *Op. cit.* lxiv. Abth. i. p. 264, 1871 (descr. orig.).



Thomas, Oldfield. 1894. "IX.—On a new species of armadillo from Bolivia." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 13, 70–72.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939408677669>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/63421>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222939408677669>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/59115>

Holding Institution

University of Toronto - Gerstein Science Information Centre

Sponsored by

University of Toronto

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.