

IX.—*A new Aquatic Genus of Muridæ discovered by
Consul L. Soderström in Ecuador.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

AMONG a further consignment of small mammals which the British Museum owes to the generosity of Consul L. Soderström, of Quito, there occurs a most interesting new form, the type of the following description :—

ANOTOMYS, gen. nov.

External characters as in *Ichthyomys*, but ear-conch quite rudimentary and the ear-opening itself a mere minute slit. Fur exceedingly rich and velvety, almost wholly composed of wool-hairs. Feet strongly fimbriated.

Skull with the brain-case smooth, round, and inflated, like that of a young non-aquatic Murine, not flattened as in *Ichthyomys*. Muzzle set on in a peculiar manner, appearing to be bent upwards owing to the strong angle at which its upper profile meets the marked rise of the frontal, and to this profile continuing perfectly straight anteriorly without any descent towards the tip of the nasals. Nasal opening not slanting backwards in lateral view, but practically vertical, the tip of the nasals projecting in front of the main part of the premaxillæ, but in turn just surpassed by the unusually projecting gnathic point between the incisors; in front view the opening is high and narrow, approaching "guttate" of Ridgway, while in *Ichthyomys* it is nearly "deltoid" (the point, of course, downwards in each case). Anteorbital foramina essentially as in *Ichthyomys*, or even more open; the anterior zygoma-root, both above and below, very slender and delicate. Malars absent on both sides in the type, possibly never ossified. Palatal foramina much broader behind than in front, instead of being approximately parallel-sided. Posterior palate less extended behind the molars.

Incisors narrower and less specialized than in *Ichthyomys*, the lower ones particularly narrow, with long slender points; a marked laterally projecting incisive capsule over the root of each upper incisor, in front of the anteorbital foramen. Molars apparently as in *Ichthyomys*, but much worn in the only specimen.

Type, *A. leander*.

This genus is evidently closely allied to *Ichthyomys*, but is less specialized for an aquatic piscivorous life in some directions (shape of brain-case, structure of incisors), and more so

in others (loss of ear-conch, character of fur, peculiar build of muzzle). It forms, therefore, a second instance of this interesting type of rodent, developed at an even higher altitude than in the case of *Ichthyomys Soderströmi* (Quito, 8000 feet), a species also discovered by our generous correspondent Consul L. Soderström.

The entire suppression of the external ear-conches is an almost unique character in Muridæ, the only forms in which it is found being the mole-rats *Ellobius* and *Myospalax* (*Siphneus*). Of aquatic animals this specialization is only known in the seals and cetaceans, not in any of the Insectivora nor in the otters. Of course there is a possibility that in the present specimen the conches have been aborted pathologically, but their reduction in *Ichthyomys* and *Hydromys* suggests the further development now described, while in the specimen itself the identity of the two sides and the natural appearance of the aural slits tell against any suggestion of accidental loss.

Anotomys leander, sp. n.

Size about as in the species of *Ichthyomys*. Fur excessively thick, soft and velvety, consisting almost wholly of wool-hairs, with a thin sprinkling of longer hairs intermixed; the wool-hairs 9, the longer hairs 14-15 mm. in length on the back. General colour above uniform dark slaty (near "slate-black"), the bases of the hairs rather lighter than their tips; sides slightly paler than the back. Some of the longer hairs tipped with whitish. Under surface from snout to anus and inner sides of limbs whitish grey (grey no. 9), well defined from the dark colour of the sides; bases of hairs dark slaty. Lower whiskers white, upper dark. A distinct white patch over each ear-hole, thus imitating the effect of having white-tipped ears, as though this coloration were of value even when the ears themselves were absent. Metacarpals brown; fingers and whole of hind feet silvery white. Tail well-haired, dull brown above, rather, but not abruptly, lighter below.

Skull and teeth as described above.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 128 mm.; tail 125; hind foot (wet) 32.

Skull: greatest length 27.5; basilar length 21.2; zygomatic breadth 14.8; nasal opening 4.2×2.4 ; nasals 9×3.2 ; interorbital breadth 3.9; breadth of brain-case 13.8; height of muzzle behind incisors 5.4; zygoma-root 1.0; palatilar

length 11·2; diastema 6·7; palatal foramina $4\ 9 \times 2\ 3$; length of upper molar series (crowns much worn) 4·6.

Hab. Mount Pichincha, Ecuador: mountain-streams at 11,500 feet.

Type. Old male. B.M. no. 5. 11. 7. 1. Collected and presented by Consul L. Soderström.

X.—On a Second Species of *Lenothrix* from the Liu Kiu Islands. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN a collection of Liu Kiu mammals recently obtained by the British Museum from Mr. Alan Owston there occurs a peculiar long-haired rat, which proves on examination to belong to the genus *Lenothrix*, founded by Mr. Gerrit S. Miller for *L. cana*, a species obtained in Sumatra by Mr. W. L. Abbott. The occurrence of this Sumatran form in the Liu Kiu Islands is of much interest. The species is naturally quite different, and may be called

Lenothrix legata, sp. n.

Size, as judged by foot and tooth-row, decidedly larger than in *L. cana*, though the skull seems to be little longer. Fur very long and thick, the ordinary hairs about 29 mm. in length on the back, the numerous long bristle-hairs attaining 50–60 mm., and the spines (which are slender and flattened, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. broad) 25 mm. in length. General colour above approaching “clay-colour,” but more greyish, and made up of such a mixture of other colours that the general tone is not easily determined. The dorsal hairs are slaty grey for nine-tenths of their length, their ends buffy, lighter on the anterior back, darker across the loins. The long bristles black, with a buffy tip. The spines whitish, with a black tip. Under surface dirty greyish, hardly lighter than the greyish bases to the dorsal hairs, the tips of the hairs dull buffy. Ears short, thinly haired, a patch behind their posterior bases buffy. Upper surface of hands and feet uniform dark brown. Tail evenly well haired throughout, the hairs about 3–4 mm. in length, not or scarcely lengthened terminally (though there is a little doubt if the tip of the tail is quite perfect); colour of tail uniformly dark brown on basal three fifths, white beyond.

Skull chiefly differing from that of *L. cana* by being immensely broader across the crested region of the crown, so



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