

Structurally this species of *Nemesia* may be distinguished by the wide space separating the lateral eyes and the presence of a few cusps on the labium. In the strong procurvature of the eyes of the anterior line it resembles the Chinese *N. sinensis*, Poc. (P. Z. S. 1901, p. 212).

The most remarkable feature connected with it, however, is the habit of constructing its dwelling on the trunks of trees instead of burrowing in the ground like the species of the genus hitherto discovered.

The nest much resembles that of *Moggridgea* and other allied genera. It consists of a subcylindrical silk tube, stiffened and concealed with chips of bark and other debris. The largest measures 52 millim. in length and 15 in width. The shape of the tube, however, is not constant. The door is fairly thick and strong, somewhat bevelled towards the margin, and fits into the orifice when closed. One of the nests contained the carcase of a fly and the leg of a bee belonging, as I learn from Col. Bingham, to a male of the genus *Anthophora*.

XXVI.—*New Species of Oxymycterus, Thrichomys, and Ctenomys from S. America.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Oxymycterus quæstor, sp. n.

One of the large reddish forms allied to *O. nasutus*, but larger.

Size fairly large. Median dorsal area yellowish tawny, heavily lined with black, gradually passing on sides and rump into deep reddish tawny, and from that again on the belly into rich ochraceous, the hairs slaty grey at their bases. Crown and middle line of face more heavily black-lined than the back. Cheeks like sides. Ears rather large, their fine hairs uniformly blackish. Front of forearms and upper surface of hands brown; inner surface of arm dull greyish buffy, a marked dark brown patch on each wrist. Legs dark rufous; upper surface of feet brown. Tail finely haired, blackish throughout.

Skull long and narrow, markedly narrower in the brain-case than in the more northern *O. hispidus*. Muzzle long, narrow, parallel-sided; the nasals elongated, broadened, and slightly *retroussés*. Palatal foramina reaching to the level of the first third of m^1 ; posterior nares level with the back of m^3 .

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh) :—

Head and body 140 millim.; tail 100; hind foot, s. u. 30, c. u. 34; ear 22.

Skull: greatest length 39·5; basilar length 29·7; zygomatic breadth 16·2; nasals, length 16·5, breadth anteriorly 4·4; interorbital breadth 6·1; brain-case breadth 14·5; palatal length 15; palatal foramina 8·4; diastema 9·5; breadth of palatal bridge 4·8; length of upper molar series 5·8.

Hab. Serra do Mar, S.E. Brazil. Type from Roça Nova, Parana, altitude 1000 m.; other specimens from Santa Catherina (*Ihering*) and Theresopolis, Rio Janeiro (*Goeldi*).

Type. Female. Original number 892. Collected 2nd November, 1901, by Mr. Alphonse Robert.

This species, coloured quite like *O. nasutus*, Waterh., differs from that by its larger size, from *O. hispidus*, Pict., of Bahia, by its smaller size and narrower brain-case, and from *O. rostellatus*, Wagn., from "Brazil," by various cranial details, of which the most tangible is its more elongate palate, that species having its posterior nares level with the back of the second molar.

Thrichomys Fosteri, sp. n.

Closely allied to the only known species of the genus, *T. apereoides*, from Lagoa Santa, but darker in colour, with blacker tail, broader palatal foramina, and larger bullæ.

Size as in *T. apereoides*, or slightly larger. General colour of whole upper surface grizzled "broccoli-brown," the hairs light slate basally, darkening distally towards the drab sub-terminal ring, their extreme tips black. Sides paler and more drab. Under surface sharply defined white, the hairs pale slaty at their bases, except in the inguinal region, where they are wholly white; a band across the chest greyish brown. Head like back above, a small, sharply defined, elongate white patch above eye, another below it, and a third at the outer base of the ear. Lips and chin white. Ears practically naked, their few fluffy hairs greyish. Outer sides of arms and legs like body, or rather more cinereous; inner sides white; centre of metapodials brown, edges, and fingers and toes, white. Tail furred and coloured like the body for its basal inch, then above it is completely black across its whole breadth to the tip; below the proximal half is greyish, gradually darkening to black distally. In *T. apereoides* the black forms a comparatively narrow line above, and the light of the lower surface extends further towards the tip.

Skull very similar to that of *T. apereoides*, but rather

heavier throughout. Nasals and interorbital region broader, and the latter more heavily ridged. Palatal foramina much wider and more open, half as broad again as in the allied species. Bullæ considerably larger and more inflated.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 276 millim.; tail 206; hind foot, s. u. 43, c. u. 47.5; ear 24.

Skull: greatest length 57.5; basilar length (c.) 42; greatest breadth 29.5; nasals 19.3×7 ; interorbital breadth 13.2; palate length 20.4; palatal foramina 7.1×5.4 ; diastema 11; length of bulla 13.3; upper molar series 9.

Hab. Sapucay, Paraguay.

Type. Old male. Original number 851. Collected 2nd September, 1902, by Mr. W. Foster. Four specimens.

"Trapped among tumbled rocks."

The discovery by Mr. Foster of this Paraguayan species of *Thrichomys* is an exceedingly interesting one, as the genus is excessively rare, and has been recorded hitherto from one locality only, Lagoa Santa, where Lund obtained his "*Echimys opereoides*," afterwards renamed by him *Nelomys antricola*, under which term it is described in Winge's 'Rodents of Lagoa Santa.'

The British Museum is indebted to the authorities at Copenhagen for one of the specimens described by Dr. Winge, and I have therefore been able to make a direct comparison between the two forms.

Ctenomys Azarae, sp. n.

Size medium, about as in *C. tucumanus* and *mendocinus*. General colour uniform brown (between "wood-brown" and fawn-colour) above and pale buffy below, without darker markings on the upper surface or white patches below, the only variation being that the top of the muzzle is slightly darker than the rest.

Skull in general shape most like that of *C. mendocinus*, comparatively narrow and slender, not flattened and squared as in *C. tucumanus*, or thickened throughout as in *C. Perrensi*. Nasals short and narrow. Interorbital region ridged, with rudimentary postorbital processes; parietal ridges more marked than in the allied species. Zygomata sloped backwards gradually to the broadest point, instead of being evenly rounded as in *mendocinus*, or square-shouldered as in *tucumanus*. Palatal notch level with the hinder edge of m^2 , instead of with its centre as is more usual. Bullæ much more swollen than in either of the other species mentioned.

Molars comparatively small, broad, and rounded in section, their enamel running almost completely round them, instead of failing for a larger or smaller gap at their antero-external and postero-internal corners. Last upper molar nearly half the area in cross section of m^2 .

Dimensions of type (measured in spirit):—

Head and body 158 millim.; tail 77; hind foot, s. u. 30, c. u. 35.

Skull: greatest length in middle line 42; basilar length 37·5; zygomatic breadth 26; interorbital breadth 8·5; least breadth above bullæ 17·2; greatest posterior breadth on auditory meatus 26·2; palate length 20; diastema 12·3; bulla, greatest length 15·5; breadth at right angles to the greatest length, excluding meatus, 8·8.

Hab. Sapucay, Paraguay.

Type. Adult male, in spirit. Collected by Mr. W. Foster. An imperfect skin also received.

This species is most nearly allied to *C. mendocinus*, Phil., of which topotypical specimens, collected by Mr. Bridges, are in the British Museum, but differs by various cranial details, of which the most obvious are the less cut out palate, the larger bullæ, and differently shaped teeth.

Ctenomys Azaræ is no doubt the Tuco-tuco whose history is given in Azara's famous work on the Mammals of Paraguay; and it is with the greatest pleasure that I take this opportunity for naming a species in honour of that naturalist, for whom I have always felt the most sincere admiration. No one who has read his book, as I have again and again, can fail to be attracted by his character, his *naïveté*, and his genuine love of his subject, or to admire the excellence and accuracy of his descriptions, which, while innocent of technicalities, were better than any others of his date, and indeed than many of those produced by technical zoologists for half a century later.

XXVII.—*Description of a new Coleopterous Insect belonging to the Curculionidæ.* By CHARLES O. WATERHOUSE, F.E.S.

A SHORT time ago I received from Mr. G. H. Carpenter, of the Science and Art Museum, Dublin, some weevils which were injurious to ferns in greenhouses. Whence these insects came is not known, but they belong to the genus *Syagrius* of



Thomas, Oldfield. 1903. "XXVI.—New species of *Oxymycterus*, *Thrichomys*, and *Ctenomys* from S. America." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 11, 226–229.

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