

*Halictus cariniventris flavotectus*, subsp. n.

♀.—Head and thorax somewhat more robust ; mandibles red in middle ; abdomen above more densely pubescent, with bright yellowish hair hiding the surface. Wings slightly greyish.

Quetta, India, July 1903 (*Nurse*).

The specimen of *H. cariniventris*, Morawitz, used for comparison was collected at Buda by Friese, May 29, 1886, and was referred by him to that species with some doubt. Morawitz described the species from the male, collected in Turkestan ; in 1895 Dalla Torre and Friese recorded it from the Caucasus. I have not been able to see any Asiatic material of true *cariniventris*, and it is possible that when females are obtained in Turkestan, they will prove identical with the Quetta form.

Compared with *H. vestitus*, Lep., *flavotectus* is easily distinguished by being much larger and more robust, with yellow instead of white tomentum on abdomen. The mesothorax and scutellum are yellow-green, while in *vestitus* they are dark blue-green.

*Megachile marginata*, Smith.

I saw the type ( ♀ ) at Oxford. There is a strong band of tomentum in scutello-mesothoracic suture ; abdominal bands very light and distinct ; eyes light red ; ventral scopa black on last segment and fuscous on apex of penultimate one.

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LVII.—*A new Species of Mastacomys from a Cave in South Australia.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some rodent-remains found in guano-caves in S. Australia, presented to the Museum by Prof. Wood-Jones, and illustrative of his paper on the molar roots of Muridæ, there occurs the upper jaw of a *Mastacomys*—a genus as yet only known from one Tasmanian example, the type of *M. fuscus*,



one immature specimen from Victoria, and some cave-remains from New South Wales\*.

The Victorian and New South Wales specimens are both of just about the same size as the original Tasmanian example.

But the South-Australian one is considerably smaller, and obviously of a different species. It may be called

*Mastacomys mordicus*, sp. n.

Size, as gauged by teeth, only about three-fourths of that of *M. fuscus*. Teeth quite similar in structure to those of that animal.

Skull apparently lower in proportion, at least anteriorly, the zygomatic plate measuring in height only about 5·7 mm. from the upper bridge to the lower edge of the foramen, while in the type of *fuscus* this measurement is 6·9 mm. Anterior edge of plate deeply and abruptly cut out to a depth equal to half its height, that of *fuscus* only evenly but slightly concave.

The molar roots are as follows:— $M^1$ , a large antero-external, a small postero-external, and two smaller inner, near together, therefore four in all;  $m^2$ , four subequal roots, placed in a square;  $m^3$ , three roots, two large anterior level with each other, and a large median posterior. This arrangement is not at all like that of any of the forms illustrated in Prof. Wood-Jones's recent paper on the subject.

Length of the molar tooth-row, alveolar 9·1 mm., grinding-surface (unworn) 7·2 (respectively 10·1 and 8·5 mm. in *M. fuscus*); greatest breadth of  $m^1$  3·0.

*Hab.* Mt. Gambier district, S. Australia. Type from a guano-cave.

*Type.* A right maxilla, with the three molars. B.M. no. 22. 10. 1. 3. Presented by Prof. F. Wood-Jones.

While the Eastern forms from New South Wales and Tasmania are all of about the same size, this South-Australian species is readily distinguishable by its much smaller dimensions.

Whether it is still to be numbered among the recent fauna of South Australia remains to be proved.

\* The specimens from Central Australia referred by Mr. Waite (Zool. Horn Exp. p. 406, fig. 6, 1896) to *Mastacomys* would seem to be either *Rattus* or *Pseudomys*. The molars are not broad enough in proportion to their length for those of *Mastacomys*.



Thomas, Oldfield. 1922. "A new species of *Mastycomis* from a cave in South Australia." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 10, 550–551.

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