

XX.—*Description of a new Squirrel from Borneo.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN the Oriental Region four of the many species of squirrel there found are characterized by having their muzzles markedly elongated, the proportions of their skulls being therefore quite different from those of ordinary squirrels. These four are the following:—*S. laticaudatus*, Müll. & Schl., formed into a separate genus, *Rhinosciurus*, by Gray, on account of the great length of its muzzle; *S. Pernyi*, M.-Edw.; *S. rufigenis*, Blanf.; and *S. Berdmorei*, Bly*.

To this list I now have to add a fifth, discovered by that able naturalist and collector Mr. A. H. Everett on Mount Penrisen, West Sarawak, during the wet season of 1889–90. I propose to call it

Sciurus Everetti, sp. n.

Fur thick and soft, markedly more so than in the somewhat similar *S. tenuis*, Horsf., found in the same district. Colour uniform dark grizzled olive, rather darker than in *S. tenuis*; sides of cheeks, shoulders, and front of hips with a very faint fulvous suffusion. Under surface dirty greyish white, the hairs everywhere slaty grey for two thirds their length, then tipped on the throat and belly with dirty white and on the chin and breast with dull fulvous. Ears short, rounded, not tufted or emphasized in colour. Tail unusually short, comparatively short-haired, almost cylindrical, the hairs ringed with dull fulvous and black. Skull small and lightly built, muzzle proportionally very long and narrow. Premolars $\frac{2}{1}$. Molars small and delicate, their series on the two sides parallel, little bowed.

Measurements of the type (an adult skin):—Head and body 175 millim.; tail, without hairs 109, with hairs 144; hind foot, without claws, 40. Skull: tip of nasals to bregma (centre of fronto-parietal suture) 36; zygomatic breadth 24.5, interorbital breadth 14; length of nasals 15.7, breadth of nasals anteriorly 5.2, posteriorly 4; palate, length 24.2; diastema 12; length of tooth-series 8.7.

A second specimen is rather larger, measuring:—Head and body 180 millim., tail without hairs 118, hind foot 40.5.

This species is superficially by no means unlike *S. chinensis*, Gr., or *S. lokriah*, Hodgs., agreeing with both in its general size and its uniform dull grizzled olive-colour; but it

* See Thomas, P. Z. S. 1886, p. 71.

may be readily distinguished from either by its elongated snout, which allies it to the four species first mentioned. Of these, *S. laticaudatus* is separated by its larger size, shorter hair, browner colour, nearly white belly, and still longer muzzle; *S. rufigenis* by the brilliant rufous of its cheeks and the underside of its tail; *S. Pernyi* by its similarly rufous tail; and *S. Berdmorei* by the black and white longitudinal stripes with which its body is ornamented. No other species that I can find have any close relationship to the new form discovered by Mr. Everett, in whose honour I have very great pleasure in naming it.

XXI.—*On the Anatomy of Horny Sponges belonging to the Genus Hircinia, and on a new Genus.* By H. FOL*.

THE genus *Hircinia* was created by Nardo in 1833 for certain horny sponges possessing two systems of fibres—some coarse and analogous to those of the bath-sponge (*Euspongia*), and others very fine and numerous, resembling the elastic fibrillæ of the connective tissue of Vertebrates. The structure of these fibrillæ was investigated by Lieberkühn, O. Schmidt, and F. E. Schulze, who showed that they do not anastomose, but terminate in all directions in rounded swellings. The two latter authors, however, like Kölliker and Hyatt, considered that these fibrils probably belonged to a parasite or to a commensal of these sponges. It was for this reason that the family Filiferæ was actually abandoned; so that Vosmaer, in his monograph of the Spongiariæ, does not recognize a single genus belonging to this family, and suppresses it.

Sections which I have made of specimens of *Hircinia variabilis* and *Hircinia* sp. n., from the neighbourhood of Nice, have enabled me to solve the disputed question of the origin and nature of the fibrillæ, and this in a sense opposed to that of recent authors.

On making a series of somewhat thick transverse sections of a specimen macerated for a few hours only, so as to separate the epithelia while leaving the connective tissue untouched, we see at once in the clearest possible way that the fibrils are not disposed at random, as would be the case were we dealing with a parasite, but form a system of incomplete septa, which alternate with the fibres of the skeleton, with

* Translated from the 'Comptes Rendus des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences,' tome cx., June 9, 1890, p. 1209 *et seq.*



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