

## PTILOTTIS MARMORATA, sp. n.

Similis *P. cinereæ*, Sclater, sed minor et plumis gutturis et præpectoris albido marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 7, culm. 1.05, alæ 3.8, caudæ 3.7, tarsi 1.05.

## Fam. TIMELIIDÆ.

## EUPETES PULCHER, sp. n.

Affinis *E. castanonoto*, Salvad., sed pileo rufescenti-brunneo nec dorso concolori, et fascia gutturali nigra gulam albam cingente absente.

## Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ.

## MUNIA GRANDIS, sp. n.

Similis *M. jadori*, sed multo major et pileo colloque totis cum corpore subtus toto nigerrimis, hypochondriis castaneis exceptis, distinguenda. Long. tot. 4, alæ 2.2, tarsi 0.65.

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Description of a new Genus and two new Species of Insectivora from Madagascar. By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S., Zool. Depart. British Museum. (Communicated by Dr. J. MURIE, F.L.S.)

[Read March 2, 1882.]

IN the collection of Mammalia recently brought by the Rev. W. Deans Cowan from Eastern Betsileo there occur a large number of two small shrew-like animals—one, of which there are no less than thirty-nine examples, having a most extraordinarily long tail, from two to three times the length of the head and body; and the other, represented by eight specimens, with a tail rather shorter than the trunk. These two species, at first sight so different, prove, on a closer examination, to belong to the same genus, and that a hitherto undescribed one. It belongs to the well-known Madagascar family Centetidæ. I propose to call it

## MICROGALE, gen. nov.

Dentition:—I.  $\frac{3}{3}$ , C.  $\frac{1}{1}$ , P.M.  $\frac{3}{3}$ , M.  $\frac{3}{3} \times 2 = 40$ .

Upper incisors small, the first two slightly exceeding the third in height, each with one posterior secondary cusp, and the second one with two anterior secondary cusps of equal height, one internal and the other external. Canines very slightly larger than the first incisors, with minute anterior and posterior secondary cusps. Premolars small, the first linear, the second and third triangular, all with anterior and posterior secondary cusps. Molars triangular, somewhat like those of *Centetes* on a small scale, but each with a well-marked internal basal ledge, and along the outer side three or four variously proportioned minute cusps.

In the lower jaw the incisors are very small, the two middle ones nearly horizontal, slightly spatulate, and each with one external secondary cusp; second and third pairs, and the canines, each consisting of one large anterior and one small posterior cusp. Premolars and molars all about equal in height, and very similar in general form to those of *Centetes*; but the posterior ledge of the last molar has a well developed cusp, half the height of the main anterior one, so that externally this tooth appears to be twice the size of any of the others.

Skull with united nasals, a ring-shaped tympanic bone, and a well-marked lacrymal canal. Clavicles well-developed. Tibiæ and fibulæ ankylosed together for their distal halves.

Vertebral formula—cervical 7, dorsal 16, lumbar 5, sacral 2, and caudal  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 44 \text{ in } M. \textit{longicaudata}. \\ 24 \text{ in } M. \textit{Cowani}. \end{array} \right.$

Fur soft, not spiny. Ears large. Muzzle with a naked tract from nose to upper lip. Toes 5—5, not fossorial. Tail well developed.

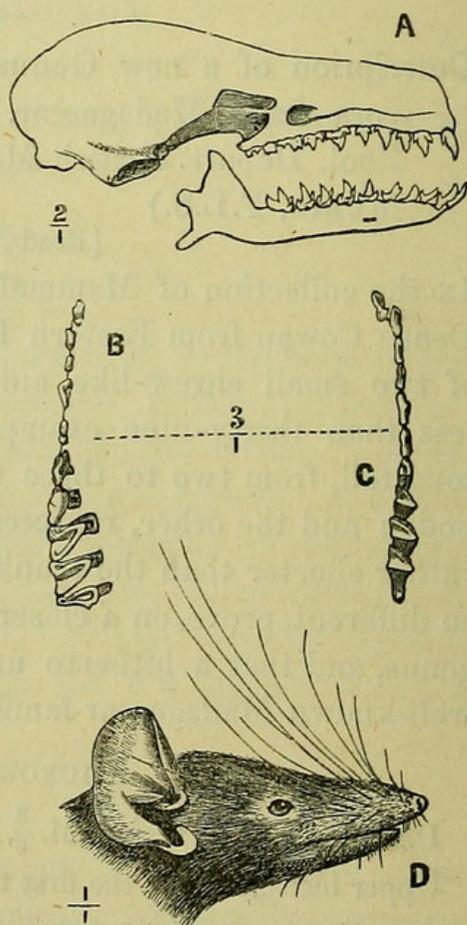
*MICROGALE LONGICAUDATA*, sp. nov. (Type of genus.)

Fur long and soft, in colour very much as in *Mus musculus*, namely dark slaty blue, the tips of the hairs above brown, below fawn. Lips and upperside of feet lighter.

Tail more than twice the length of the body and head combined (see dimensions below), covered with scales and short hairs, slate- above, pale flesh- colour below. Feet and claws small; soles nearly or quite naked, minutely granulated, with six pads on both fore and hind limbs. Ears very large, laid forward they quite cover the eyes. Naked tract from muzzle to lips with a median groove, in addition to the two faint grooves which form its boundaries.

*MICROGALE COWANI*, sp. n.

Very similar to *M. longicaudata* in its cranial and dental characters; but externally, though its colour is



*Microgale longicaudata*:—A, Side view of skull, twice nat. size. Teeth (B) of upper jaw, (C) of lower jaw, three times nat. size. D, Exterior of head in profile, about nat. size.

quite the same, it is readily distinguishable from that species by its larger size, smaller ears, very much shorter tail (see dimensions below), and its proportionally shorter feet and shorter fifth toes. The naked line on the underside of the muzzle is also narrower than in *M. longicaudata*, and has no additional median groove.

### Dimensions.

	Head	Head	Tail.	Hind	Forearm	Ear-	Muzzle
	and	and		foot.	and	conch,	to ear.
	in.	body.	in.	in.	hand.	length.	in.
<i>M. longicaudata</i> :							
a. Spec. figd. and described ...	1.03	2.65	6.2	.71	.92	.60	.75
b. ....	.93	2.40	5.8	.70	.89	.52	.72
c. ....	.91	2.15	4.7	.64	.78	.55	.65
d. ....	.92	2.05	4.6	.61	.75	.56	.62
e. ....	.93	2.20	4.4	.63	.77	.57	.65
f. ....	.93	2.27	4.45	.65	.77	.56	.68
<i>M. Cowani</i> :							
a. Spec. described	1.10	3.0	2.5	.64	.82	.50	.85
b. ....	1.05	2.65	2.15	.56	.76	.46	.78
c. ....	.92	2.45	1.95	.54	.68	.46	.70
d. (imm.).....	.92	2.25	1.7	.55	.72	.40	.69

### Skulls.

	Length.	Breadth	Between	Length of	Lower	Length of
		across	maxillary	upper	dental	lower jaw.
		brain-	zygomatic	dental	series.	
		case.	processes.	series.		
<i>M. longicaudata</i> .	.78	.33	.26	.36	.35	.52
<i>M. Cowani</i> * ...	.84	.36	.32	.40	.36	.55

All the specimens of both species were obtained by Mr. Cowan in the Ankáfana forest, Eastern Betsileo, between the middle of February and the middle of March, 1880. This time of year being, in Madagascar, the autumn, and therefore not the breeding-season, I have been unable to make out the number of mammæ, or any other characters connected with the sexual organs.

*Microgale* differs from *Geogale*, a genus recently described by Prof. A. Milne-Edwards †, by the quite different shape of its skull and teeth, and by the much larger number of the latter.

This genus is an extremely interesting one, as adding another connecting link between *Centetes* and *Potamogale*, agreeing with the former in the possession of a clavicle and lacrymal canal, and with the latter by its long tail, soft fur, and united tibia and fibula. I am indebted for a knowledge of the correct position of

\* Anterior milk-incisors still remaining.

† Ann. Sc. Nat. 1872.

this genus to Dr. G. E. Dobson, who has had the advantage of seeing in Paris the types of *Geogale aurita*, the form to which, merely from Prof. Milne-Edwards's description, I had originally thought it most nearly allied.

With regard to the arrangement of the flexor tendons of the hind feet, on which Dr. Dobson\* has recently laid much stress, it would appear that this part in *Microgale* is still in a rather early and undifferentiated condition, the two muscles in question, the *flexor hallucis longus* and the *flexor digitorum longus*, not having become fully separated, as their tendons are united in the sole of the foot, and form but one broad tendinous mass, which splits up again into five digital slips.

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On a new Species of Sand-Martin (*Cotile*) from Madagascar.  
By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department  
of Zoology, British Museum.

[Read March 2, 1882.]

THE Rev. Deans Cowan has lately been exploring the Forest of Ankáfana in the Betsileo country, Madagascar, and has brought thence a very large and interesting collection in all branches of natural history. Amongst the birds there is an apparently undescribed species of *Cotile*, which I propose to call, after its discoverer,

COTILE COWANI, sp. n.

*Adult female.* General colour above dark sooty brown, slightly paler on the lower back and rump; wing-coverts like the back, the inner greater coverts and inner secondaries rather lighter and with slightly paler margins; primary-coverts and quills very dark brown; tail-feathers very dark brown, with narrow paler edgings, the outermost feathers very narrowly fringed with white; lores blackish; ear-coverts and sides of face dark sooty brown, the cheeks and throat ashy brown; remainder of under surface of body dark ashy brown, including the thighs; lower abdomen whitish; under tail-coverts pure white; axillaries and under wing-coverts dark ashy brown like the breast, the edge of the wing with paler ashy margins to the feathers; quills dark brown

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\* Monograph of the Insectivora, p. 67 &c. (1882).



Thomas, Oldfield. 1882. "Description of a new genus and two new species of Insectivora from Madagascar." *The Journal of the Linnean Society of London. Zoology* 16, 319–322. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-3642.1882.tb02284a.x>.

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