

habits of this interesting animal were not nocturnal. It died from convulsions, under which it had suffered for five weeks.

Its mode of breaking the egg is somewhat different from that of *Herpestes fasciatus*, which Dr. Thomson had also under observation for some time. This latter, after getting the egg close to a projecting object, seizes it with the two anterior feet, and then jerks it through between the hinder legs, which are raised somewhat to let the egg pass.

2. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS OF INSECTIVOROUS MAMMALIA, OR TALPIDÆ, FROM BORNEO. BY JOHN EDWARD GRAY, ESQ., F.R.S. ETC.

(Mamm. pl. 2.)

Mr. Low brought with him from Borneo some mammalia and reptiles in spirits; amongst them, he informed me, was "a rat-like animal with a pennated tail, which he caught in the Rajah's house at Sarawak." On examining the collection, I was much pleased at discovering in the animal so characteristically described, a new genus of Insectivora, nearly related to *Tupaia*, but differing from it both in the conformation of its tail and the form of the skull, and adding another genus to the subfamily of *Tupaina*, the geographic range of which appears to be confined to the Asiatic islands. Borneo may be regarded their more proper home, as possessing all the genera, viz. *Tupaia*, *Hylomys*, and the one under consideration, which, from the form of its tail, may be called *Ptilocercus*.

The true *Tupaia* have a broad hairy tail like the squirrels; the *Hylomys* have a very short, slender, cylindrical tail, covered with short close adpressed hair; and the *Ptilocercus*, on the other hand, have an elongated cylindrical tail, covered with rings of square broad scales like the long-tailed rats, but the end of the tail is furnished with a series of rigid hairs on each side, like the barb of an arrow. I may remark, that besides the genera here noticed, the Dutch naturalists have described an animal under the name of *Hylogale murina*, 'Verhand. Mamm.' t. 26, f. 3, t. 27, f. 17-18, also from Borneo, which differs from the *Tupaia* (or *Hylogale*) in having a cylindrical tail covered with short hair, but furnished with a pencil of longer hair of the tip, which I propose to separate from the other under the name of *Dendrogale*. Each of these genera have a peculiar livery: the *Tupaia* are grised yellow and brown, with a yellow streak across the shoulders; the *Hylomys* are uniform dark-coloured; the *Dendrogale* and *Ptilocercus* have no shoulder-streak, but a dark streak on the side of the face inclosing the eyes; the former having a white spot on the forehead not observable in the latter.

At first sight *Ptilocercus* has much the appearance of a marsupial animal allied to *Cuscus*, but this resemblance proves to be only in the mere external form, when the characters are examined, as for example, it wants the large great-toe of that group.

The skulls of *Tupaia* and *Ptilocercus* have a considerable resemblance to that of the *Lemuridæ*, and particularly in having the orbits entire. The *Tupaia* are peculiar in having a large elongated aperture

on the hinder part of the middle of the zygomatic arch, while the *Ptilocercus* has only a small round perforation in the front part of the middle of the same part, which is probably the analogue of the hole in the former genus.

PTILOCERCUS, n. g.

Head moderately tapering; whiskers elongated, rather rigid. Ears moderate, naked, exposed. Body slender, fur soft. Limbs moderately elongated, nearly equal. Toes 5.5, rather compressed, free. Thumb moderate, like the toes, but shorter. Claws short, compressed, triangular, acute. Tail elongate, cylindrical, hairy quite at the base, then naked, covered with rings of square, broad, adpressed scales and short scattered hairs, and the hinder third with a series of elongate hairs, forming a barb on each side. Skull conical; face rather short.

Cutting teeth $\frac{1.1.1.1}{3.3}$: upper elongate, far apart, rather curved; lower shelving, front pair conical, small, shorter than the middle pair, which are elongate, curved, acute; the hinder smallest and shortest. Canines none. Grinders $\frac{7-7}{7.7}$, the front 3.3 in each jaw, small; the hinder 4.4 large, square, acutely tubercular.

The skull is shorter, broader, and the face less elongated than that of the different species of *Tupaia*, and it differs from them in the two front teeth of the lower jaw being smaller and shorter than the succeeding one, while in all the species of *Tupaia* (including the genus *Dendrogale*) figured by Temminck, the four front teeth of the lower jaw are equally elongated.

The hinder cutting tooth in the upper jaw is placed on the suture of the intermaxillary (and hence may be a true canine) and not in front of the suture of the intermaxillary, as is the case with the skull of *Tupaia tana* and *T. ferruginea* in the British Museum collection.

PTILOCERCUS LOWII.

Blackish-brown, very minutely grizzled with the yellowish tips of the hairs; lips, lower part of cheeks, chin, and beneath yellowish: sides of the face inclosing the eyes black. Tail black; barbs white, except a few hairs near the scaly part, which are black.

Length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $6\frac{1}{2}$; hind-foot, 1. Skull: length, $1'' 4'''$; tooth line, $7\frac{1}{2}'''$; of face, $5'''$; of zygomatic arch, $7\frac{3}{4}'''$; width at zygomatic arch, $9\frac{1}{2}'''$; at temples, $6\frac{1}{2}'''$; between orbits, $3\frac{3}{4}'''$.

Inhab. Borneo, Sarawak.

I have named this species after my friend Mr. Hugh Low, who has much enriched our knowledge of the natural productions of Borneo.

3. ON THE HABITS OF *AMEIVA DORSALIS*. BY P. H. GOSSE.

This species is one of the most common of the reptiles of Jamaica, and is as beautiful as abundant. Its colours are striking, but not showy; its countenance has a very meek expression, not altogether unlike that of a deer or antelope. All its motions are elegant and sprightly; when it is proceeding deliberately, its body is thrown into





Gray, John Edward. 1848. "Description of a new genus of insectivorous Mammalia, or Talpidae, from Borneo." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1848, 23–24.

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