

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW PIGMY SQUIRREL FROM CENTRAL
AMERICA.

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Although several squirrels belonging to the subgenus *Microsciurus* have been described they have all been based upon a very limited number of specimens. The rarity of these animals in recent collections from the region in which they occur makes it appear that they are either rare or extremely shy. Collectors visiting Central or northern South America should make special effort to obtain small squirrels, since the few specimens of *Microsciurus* already in existence show an unexpectedly large number of species with apparently rather restricted ranges. I am indebted to the generosity of Mr. Oldfield Thomas, Curator of Mammals of the British Museum, for the opportunity to describe the following species.

***Sciurus (Microsciurus) boquetensis*, sp. nov.**

Chiriqui Pigmy Squirrel.

Type.—Adult female, No. 3.3.3.38, British Museum. Collected at Boquete (alt. 6000 ft.), Chiriqui, Panama, May 7, 1903, by H. J. Watson. Original number 93.

Distribution.—Known only from type locality.

Specific characters.—Pelage soft, thick and woolly; tail slender, flattened; upperparts olive brown; breast rusty rufous; rest of underparts mainly grizzled bistre brown; tops of feet and toes washed with rusty. Size about that of *S. alfari*.

Color.—Upperparts including sides of body and upper surface of legs uniform olivaceous brown with a dull yellowish shade; sides of head and neck slightly paler and more yellowish; tops of feet and toes washed with rusty reddish; tail dull tawny olive finely washed and tipped with black and thinly edged with pale yellowish tips of hairs; chin and throat dingy rusty; underside of neck and breast rusty rufous shading back into dull grizzled brown; underside of tail dull tawny olive narrowly bordered with black and thinly edged with pale yellowish tips of hairs.

Measurements.—Measurements of type from dried skin: total length, 257; tail vertebræ, 116; hind foot, 37.

Cranial characters.—Premolars $\frac{2}{1}$. Skull longer and proportionately narrower than in *S. isthmius*; this character specially marked in rostrum; interorbital width narrower; brain-case narrower and more highly arched; lower jaw heavier with angle stronger and more broadly expanded; molar series longer and heavier. The skull of type measures: palatal length, 15.5; interorbital breadth, 14; length of upper molar series, 7.

Specimens examined.—One; from type locality.

General notes.—The soft thick pelage of this species indicates that it is a resident of a comparatively cool and probably humid climate.

The measurements of the apparently slightly over-stuffed type show that it is about the same size as *S. alfari*. It may be at once distinguished from *S. isthmius*, *S. alfari*, and *S. similis* by the rather pale, almost grayish, olivaceous color of upperparts, which entirely lack the warm reddish brown suffusion characteristic, in varying degree, of the three species named.



Nelson, Edward William. 1903. "A new pigmy squirrel from Central America." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 16, 121–122.

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