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DESCRIPTION
OF
APPARENTLY NEW SPECIES
AND SUB-SPECIES

OF
MAMMALS
FROM THE
INDIAN TERRITORY.

BY
D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E.,
CURATOR OF DEPARTMENT.



CHICAGO, U. S. A.

May 24, 1899.

DESCRIPTIONS OF APPARENTLY NEW SPECIES AND SUB-SPECIES OF MAMMALS FROM THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

BY D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E.

1. *Lepus telmalemonus*.*

Type locality. Dense thickets and bottom lands of Washita River, near Dougherty, Indian Territory. Collected April 12th and 13th, 1899, by Thaddeus Surber.

General characters. Probably nearest to *L. a. attwateri*, Allen, from Southern Texas, near San Antonio, but is larger in some respects and with a very differently colored pelage. The male and female are very unlike in appearance, although killed within a day of each other, and there is no evidence perceptible of the coat being in change.

Color, Adult Male. Sides of face and flanks silvery gray; upper parts also silvery gray but with a yellow tinge, and becoming pale brown near base of tail. All the hairs tipped with black, and plumbeous at base. The dorsal surface is only slightly darker than the flanks, and that is caused by the yellow tinge. Back of neck chestnut. Nose to crown light buff lined with black. Back of head light gray, with a narrow black line down the center. Light buff around the eye, broadest and most conspicuous behind. Rather broad black line across the cheeks. Upper and outer surface of fore legs pale fulvous, those parts on hind legs even lighter, inclining to white. Pectoral band very broad, pale fulvous. Rest of under parts with inside of forelegs and thighs white. Ears light buff, heavily lined with black; inside pearly gray, nearly bare of hair at the center. Tail snuff brown above, the hairs tipped with fulvous, beneath white.

Measurements. (Taken by the Collector in the flesh.) Adult: Total length, 540 mm.; tail, 75; hind foot, 110. Ears from notch (measured in skin), 69.

Skull. Distinct and regular curve from occiput to anterior end of nasals, the slope being steepest from posterior line of orbit to

* Τελευτα Swamp, ἀλιήμων Wanderer.

occiput. Nasals very broad. Occipito-nasal length, 94 mm.; length of Hensel, 71; greatest zygomatic breadth, 41; greatest mastoid breadth, 33; nasals, 36.5; least interorbital breadth, 21; palatal length, 10; hamular process of pterygoid to palate, 19.5; basioccipital, 12; mandible from angle to alveolus of incisors, inside, 65; greatest depth from coronoid process to lower border of mandible, 35; length of upper tooth row, 17; lower tooth row, 18.

Adult Female. Upper parts and flanks yellowish buff, the hairs tipped with amber brown, much darker on the dorsal area and almost blackish brown on the rump. No black lines or markings visible as in the male. Head and back of neck as in the male. Ears like the back outside, inside buff along the margin, center bare. Pectoral band and under parts, feet and tail like the male, the feet slightly darker in hue. The general appearance of the female is that of a pale yellowish animal suffused with a reddish brown, darkest on dorsal tract, very different from the silver gray and black of the male.

Measurements. (Taken by the Collector in the flesh). Total length, 560; tail, 86; hind foot, 110.

This fine Hare, as represented by the male, is very different in appearance from any other species known to me. If there is a distinctly colored pelage for each sex, this fact would cause its separation from all its congeners. This, however, can only be determined by the acquisition of additional specimens. It may be, as imagined by the settlers, as mentioned by Mr. Surber in his notes given below, that the two styles represent summer and winter; but even this would be unusual among the members of the genus *Lepus*, for even if the pelage did vary in color among them at different seasons, the present species (excepting those that turn white in winter), would be unique in having such absolutely opposing coats. Mr. Surber's notes regarding this Hare are as follows:

"This large and interesting hare was found exclusively in the dense thickets along the Washita River bottoms, where the grape vines and briars, mixed with the thick undergrowth, make almost impenetrable thickets. They appeared to be common, but it was almost impossible to get a shot at them, as they were up and away almost at a flash, and ran long distances before stopping. The first specimen—the ♂—was shot while bounding away, and I was forcibly reminded of the deer in all its movements. While these hares keep their tails stretched straight out

behind like a jack rabbit, they give it a jerk every time they jump, precisely as I have seen deer do. This fact I was able to verify on several occasions. Usually they run straight away when jumped up, but the ♀ taken was an exception to this, for after she had gone not over 25 yards she stopped, and, raising on her hind quarters, looked back at me, when I very luckily secured her with a shot from my Colt's revolver. Hunters who claimed to have killed many of these hares at Dougherty, assured me that the ♀ I secured was in the winter coat, while the ♂, which is very grayish in color, was very odd to them, and must be the summer pelage. I was told these hares are never found away from the dense thickets along the river bottom, and at all times are difficult to shoot."

2. *Blarina brevicauda hulophaga*.*

Type locality. Dougherty, Indian Territory.

General characters. Similar to *B. b. carolinensis*, but lighter in color, and differing in the character of the teeth, and with an extremely short tail.

Color. Adult Male. Uniform silvery gray in most lights, changing to light brown in others; under parts, paler hues of same colors, and when viewed against the hair, becoming buff. Feet flesh color. Tail brown above, brownish white below.

Measurements. Total length, 100 mm.; tail, 18; hind leg, 12. (Collector).

Adult Female. Precisely like the male in color, but smaller.

Measurements. Total length, 93 mm.; tail, 17; hind foot, 12.5. (Collector).

Skull. The skull of the male having been unfortunately badly broken by the trap, I am obliged to take that of the female for description, as it is in perfect condition. Occipital plane flat as in *brevicauda*, only slightly elevated above the frontals; mandible equally massive for its relative size, and the angle well pronounced. Pterygoid fossa as long as that of *brevicauda* notwithstanding the shorter length of skull. Incisors broad at base, and sloping forwards, 5th unicuspid not visible from the outside. 1st and 2nd unicuspids more than twice the size of the following three, and projecting forward. Middle cusp of m^1 large, and pyramidal in shape. Occipito-nasal length, 20 mm.; length of Hensel, 17; greatest mastoid breadth, 9; palatal length, 8; pterygoid, 3.

This Shrew appears to represent in the west the *B. b. carolinensis* of the east, and possesses sufficient character to entitle it to a distinct rank. Mr. Surber's note regarding this is as follows:

"The two Blarinas taken were both caught in the same trap set underneath an old log in the lower woodland east of Dougherty. Though I baited and set traps repeatedly for this shrew, these were the only ones secured, and it cannot be regarded as common."

* *ἰλοφαγος*. Feeding in the woods.

May 24, 1899.





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