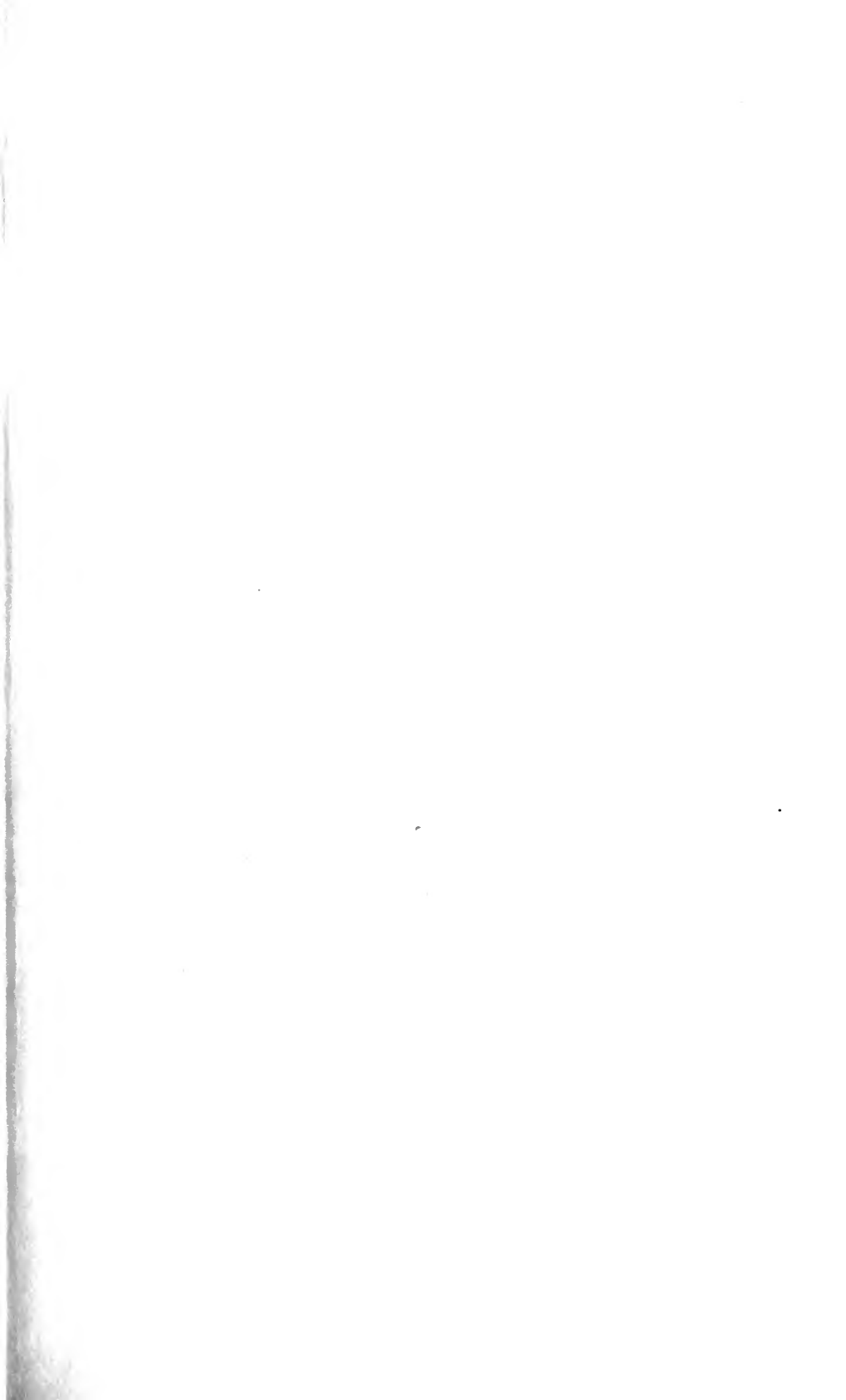




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CONTENTS

| | PAGES |
|---|---------|
| 1. A NEW RODENT FROM DUTCH NEW GUINEA. By <i>Wilfred H. Osgood</i> . | 1-2 |
| 2. MALACOLOGICAL NOTES—IV. By <i>Fritz Haas</i> | 3-14 |
| 3. SOME REMARKABLE SHELLS OF A SOUTH AMERICAN FRESH-WATER MUSSEL. By <i>Fritz Haas</i> | 15-30 |
| 4. A BIRD COLLECTION FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. By <i>W. J. Beecher</i> | 31-37 |
| 5. NOTES ON SOME NEOTROPICAL HAWKS. By <i>Boardman Conover</i> . . | 39-45 |
| 6. A NEW OCTODONT RODENT FROM THE PARAGUAYAN CHACO. By <i>Wilfred H. Osgood</i> | 47-49 |
| 7. THE SOUTH AMERICAN RODENTS OF THE GENUS <i>Neotomys</i> . By <i>Colin Campbell Sanborn</i> | 51-57 |
| 8. THE SHEATH-TAILED BAT OF THE PALAU AND MARSHALL ISLANDS. By <i>Colin Campbell Sanborn</i> | 59-62 |
| 9. NOTES ON AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF MICHUACAN, MEXICO. By <i>Karl P. Schmidt</i> and <i>Frederick A. Shannon</i> | 63-85 |
| 10. TWO RACES OF THE BRIDLED TITMOUSE. By <i>A. J. van Rossem</i> . . | 87-92 |
| 11. A NEW RACE OF KOKLAS PHEASANT. By <i>Robert L. Fleming</i> . . . | 93-96 |
| 12. SOME NEUROPTEROUS INSECTS FROM SZECHWAN, CHINA. By <i>Nathan Banks</i> | 97-107 |
| 13. A NEW KINOSTERNID TURTLE FROM COLOMBIA. By <i>Karl P. Schmidt</i> | 109-112 |
| 14. THE MALLEUS (OSSICULUM AUDITUS) OF THE ANTHROPOID APES. By <i>Walter Segall</i> | 113-120 |
| 15. NOTES ON PHILIPPINE MOSQUITOES—XI. By <i>F. E. Baisas</i> | 121-124 |
| 16. THE BACULA OF SOME FRUIT BATS (<i>Pteropus</i>). By <i>D. Dwight Davis</i> | 125-131 |
| 17. GEOGRAPHICAL RACES OF THE RODENT <i>Akodon jelskii</i> THOMAS. By <i>Colin Campbell Sanborn</i> | 133-142 |
| 18. TWO NEW BEETLES FROM COSTA RICA AND AUSTRALIA, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS. By <i>Albert B. Wolcott</i> and <i>Henry S. Dybas</i> | 143-148 |
| 19. A NEW GENUS OF BATFLIES FROM GUATEMALA. By <i>Henry S. Dybas</i> and <i>Rupert L. Wenzel</i> | 149-154 |
| 20. THE DISTRIBUTION OF <i>Leurognathus</i> . By <i>Clifford H. Pope</i> and <i>Nelson G. Hairston</i> | 155-162 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

TEXT FIGURES

| | PAGE |
|---|---------------|
| 1. <i>Coarctatio coarctata</i> | 11 |
| 2. <i>Brazieria velata brazieri</i> | 13 |
| 3. Growth rings on valves of <i>Anodontites (Lamproscapha) ensiformis</i> . . | 17 |
| 4. <i>Ctenomys (Chacomys) conoveri</i> , type | 48 |
| 5. Map showing known distribution of <i>Neotomys ebriosus ebriosus</i> and <i>N. e. vulturinus</i> | 53 |
| 6. Skull of <i>Neotomys ebriosus ebriosus</i> from Chiquirin, Peru | 55 |
| 7. <i>Emballonura semicaudata palauensis</i> , Peleliu Island; <i>E. s. palauensis</i> , Jaluit Island; <i>E. s. semicaudata</i> , Viti Levu Island | 60 |
| 8. Map showing location of Tanctaro-Apatzingan area in Mexico | 64 |
| 9. Genitalia of <i>Himalopsyche placida</i> | 102 |
| 10. Clasper and penis of <i>Rhyacophila marcida</i> | 103 |
| 11. Venation, tip of abdomen and base of forewings of <i>Glossosoma minutum</i> . | 104 |
| 12. Genitalia of <i>Plectrocnemia tortosa</i> | 106 |
| 13. Genitalia of <i>Arctopsyche difformis</i> | 107 |
| 14. Type of <i>Kinosternon dunnii</i> sp. nov., showing differences in plastron from <i>Kinosternon spurrelli</i> , from same locality | 110 |
| 15. Mallei of gibbons | 115 |
| 16. Mallei of chimpanzee and man | 118 |
| 17. Mallei of great apes | 119 |
| 18. <i>Tripterooides hoogstraali</i> sp. nov.; parts of male terminalia | 123 |
| 19. Distal end of penis of <i>Pteropus rayneri</i> | 127 |
| 20. Dorsal views of bacula of five species of <i>Pteropus</i> | 129 |
| 21. Map showing known distribution of <i>Akodon (Chroeomys) jelskii</i> . . . | 135 |
| 22. Male and female antennae of <i>Callotillus intricatus</i> sp. nov.; antenna, terminal segment of palpus, and tarsal claw of <i>Thrioceroles corporaali</i> gen. et sp. nov. | 144 |
| 23. <i>Thrioceroles corporaali</i> gen. et sp. nov., paratype | 145 |
| 24. <i>Callotillus intricatus</i> sp. nov.; type, female | 147 |
| 25-27. <i>Joblingia schmidti</i> gen. et sp. nov. | 150, 151, 153 |

| | PAGE |
|--|----------|
| 28. Map of North Carolina and adjacent areas, showing distribution of species of <i>Leurognathus</i> | 157 |
| 29. Chart showing vertical distribution of the species of <i>Leurognathus</i> | 159 |
| 30. <i>Bulimulus (Lissoacme) scalariformis</i> | 172 |
| 31. <i>Subulina (Subulina) yatesi</i> | 173 |
| 32. <i>Bulimulus (Scutalus) quechuarum</i> | 175 |
| 33. <i>Bulimulus (Scutalus) sanborni</i> sp. nov. | 177 |
| 34. <i>Polyhyba dybasi</i> gen. et sp. nov., type and paratype | 181 |
| 35, 36. <i>Anodonta (Lastena) couperiana couperiana</i> | 183, 184 |
| 37. <i>Amblema (Megalonaia) gigantea</i> | 185 |
| 38. <i>Bulimulus (Peronaeus) subelatus</i> sp. nov., type | 191 |
| 39. <i>Bulimulus (Protoglyptus) subcostatus</i> sp. nov., type | 191 |
| 40. <i>Helicina (Helicina) weyrauchi</i> sp. nov., type | 192 |
| 41. <i>Micronycteris (Micronycteris) megalotis megalotis</i> | 217 |
| 42. <i>Micronycteris (Micronycteris) minuta</i> | 218 |
| 43. <i>Micronycteris (Micronycteris) schmidtorum</i> , type | 221 |
| 44. <i>Micronycteris (Xenoctenes) hirsuta</i> | 222 |
| 45, 46. <i>Micronycteris (Lampronnycteris) platyceps</i> , type | 225, 226 |
| 47. <i>Micronycteris (Neonycteris) pusilla</i> , type | 227 |
| 48. <i>Micronycteris (Trinycteris) nicefori</i> , type | 229 |
| 49. <i>Micronycteris (Glyphonycteris) sylvestris</i> , type | 232 |
| 50. <i>Bulimulus (Bulimulus) inconspicuus</i> sp. nov., type; <i>Drymaeus (Drymaeus) schunkei</i> sp. nov., type; <i>Drymaeus (Drymaeus) gibber</i> sp. nov., type | 237 |
| 51. <i>Drymaeus (Drymaeus) gibber</i> sp. nov., paratypes | 239 |
| 52. <i>Obeliscus (Protobeliscus) teres</i> sp. nov., type | 241 |
| 53. <i>Nenia (Columbinia) obesa</i> sp. nov., type | 241 |
| 54. <i>Nenia (Columbinia) obesa</i> sp. nov., paratype | 242 |
| 55. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) affinis</i> | 244 |
| 56. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) obvoluta</i> sp. nov., type | 244 |
| 57. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) retinella</i> sp. nov., type | 246 |
| 58. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) angigyra</i> sp. nov., type | 247 |
| 59. <i>Austroselenites variegatus</i> sp. nov., type | 248 |
| 60. Chart plotting number of vomerine teeth against snout-to-vent length in male and female juveniles of <i>Plethodon g. glutinosus</i> | 253 |

| | PAGE |
|---|----------|
| 61. <i>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</i> ; chart showing mental gland correlated with snout-to-vent length | 255 |
| 62. <i>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</i> ; chart showing cloacal gland papillae correlated with snout-to-vent length | 255 |
| 63. <i>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</i> ; chart showing condition of ovaries and oviducts correlated with snout-to-vent length | 256 |
| 64. <i>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</i> ; chart showing condition of ovaries and oviducts correlated with season | 256 |
| 65. <i>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</i> ; chart showing size distribution of males, females, and juveniles | 259 |
| 66, 67. <i>Tinamus tao weddelli</i> , <i>Tinamus osgoodi</i> sp. nov., type, and <i>Tinamus major peruvianus</i> | 264, 265 |
| 68, 69. Genitalia of old parous female <i>Crocota crocuta</i> | 279, 281 |
| 70. Lateral view of scapulas of <i>Bassariscus</i> , <i>Procyon</i> , <i>Ursus</i> , <i>Panthera</i> , and <i>Canis</i> | 286 |
| 71. Glenoid border of scapula of <i>Canis lupus</i> compared with <i>Ursus americanus</i> | 287 |
| 72, 73. Lateral and medial views of flexor muscles of shoulder in <i>Ursus americanus</i> | 288, 289 |
| 74. Medial view of shoulder of <i>Ursus americanus</i> , showing M. subscapularis minor | 291 |
| 75, 76. Directions of pull of muscles tying fore limb to body in the dog | 295, 297 |
| 77. Directions of pull of flexors of shoulder in the bear and the dog | 298 |
| 78. Map of New Caledonia | 314 |
| 79. Normal resting position of <i>Pteropus ornatus</i> | 315 |
| 80. Scene in Dumbea Pass, New Caledonia, typical of camp sites chosen by <i>Pteropus</i> | 317 |
| 81. <i>Pteropus ornatus</i> , showing method of moving around in trees | 319 |
| 82. Chart showing growth curves for <i>Pteropus ornatus</i> embryos | 323 |
| 83. Cave in New Caledonia, typical night-time resting site for <i>Miniopterus a. australis</i> and <i>M. macrocneme</i> | 335 |
| 84. Map of South America, showing distribution of races of <i>Chrysoptilus melanochloros</i> and <i>C. melanolaimus</i> | 423 |
| 85. Map of northeastern Brazil, showing collecting stations of Hopkins-Branner Expedition of 1911 | 442 |
| 86. Heads of paratypes of <i>Varanus karlschmidti</i> | 469 |
| 87, 88. <i>Caluromysiops irrupta</i> sp. nov., type | 474, 475 |
| 89. Map of Palestine | 480 |
| 90. <i>Laciniaria (Elia) moesta</i> | 483 |

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 91. <i>Albinaria (Filumna) elonensis</i> sp. nov. | 487 |
| 92. <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) petrbokei</i> | 490 |
| 93. <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) genezarethana</i> | 493 |
| 94. <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) davidiana</i> | 495 |
| 95. <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) prophetarum</i> | 497 |
| 96. <i>Laciniaria (Elia) moesta</i> , <i>Albinaria (Filumna) elonensis</i> sp. nov., <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) petrbokei</i> , <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) genezare-</i> <i>thana</i> , <i>Cristataria (Strangulata) davidiana</i> , <i>Cristataria (Strangulata)</i> <i>prophetarum</i> | 499 |
| 97. <i>Annularia barkeri</i> sp. nov., type | 505 |
| 98. <i>Bulimulus (Protoglyptus) vestalis</i> , paratype | 508 |
| 99. <i>Thaumastus (Quechua) salteri</i> | 511 |
| 100. <i>Bulimulus (Protoglyptus) rhabdotus</i> sp. nov., type | 513 |
| 101. <i>Bulimulus (Peronaeus) webbi</i> sp. nov., type | 513 |
| 102. <i>Bulimulus (Peronaeus) virgula</i> sp. nov., type | 515 |
| 103. <i>Bulimulus (Peronaeus) claviformis</i> sp. nov., type | 515 |
| 104. <i>Bulimulus (Scutalus) revinctus altorum</i> subsp. nov., type | 516 |
| 105. <i>Bulimulus (Scutalus) punctilineatus</i> sp. nov., type. | 516 |
| 106. <i>Bulimulus (Ataxus) perforatus</i> sp. nov., type | 518 |
| 107. <i>Bostryx (Vermetellus) metagyra</i> | 520 |
| 108. <i>Drymaeus (Drymaeus) pseudelatus</i> sp. nov., type | 521 |
| 109. <i>Drymaeus (Drymaeus) basitorus</i> sp. nov., type | 522 |
| 110. <i>Thaumastus (Quechua) tetricus</i> sp. nov., type | 524 |
| 111. <i>Epiphragmophora (Epiphragmophora) leucobasis</i> sp. nov., type | 525 |
| 112. <i>Epiphragmophora (Epiphragmophora) hemiomphalos</i> sp. nov., type | 527 |
| 113. <i>Solaropsis (Psadara) inornata</i> sp. nov., type | 528 |
| 114. <i>Solaropsis (Psadara) monile peruviana</i> subsp. nov., type | 529 |
| 115. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) platysma</i> sp. nov., type | 530 |
| 116. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) impressa</i> sp. nov., type | 532 |
| 117. <i>Systrophia (Systrophia) cereonitens</i> sp. nov., type | 533 |
| 118. <i>Systrophia (Systrophiella) gyrellina</i> sp. nov., type | 535 |
| 119. <i>Austroselenites(?) weyrauchi</i> sp. nov., type | 536 |
| 120. <i>Happia (Happia) cuzcana planior</i> subsp. nov., type | 537 |
| 121. <i>Radiodiscus (Radioconus) microhelix</i> sp. nov., type | 539 |
| 122. <i>Euglandina (Euglandina) cylindrus angusta</i> subsp. nov., type | 540 |

| | PAGE |
|---|----------|
| 123. <i>Obeliscus (Protobeliscus) nanus</i> sp. nov., type | 541 |
| 124. <i>Leptinaria (Lamellaxis) eyerdami</i> sp. nov., type | 541 |
| 125. <i>Chilina minuta</i> sp. nov., type | 543 |
| 126. <i>Helicina (Helicina) munda</i> sp. nov., type | 544 |
| 127. Map of British Honduras | 549 |
| 128. Map showing the distribution of the races of the sunbird <i>Nectarinia jugularis</i> in the Philippines and the distribution of characters in the variable race <i>N. j. jugularis</i> | 603 |
| 129, 130. <i>Staurois hongkongensis</i> sp. nov., type | 610, 611 |
| 131. <i>Xestina themis</i> | 623 |
| 132, 133. <i>Dyakia duumvirorum</i> sp. nov. | 625 |
| 134. <i>Liopropoma mowbrayi</i> sp. nov., type | 634 |
| 135. <i>Centropyge argi</i> sp. nov., type | 637 |
| 136. <i>Otophidium schmidti</i> sp. nov., type | 641 |
| 137. Air bladder of <i>Otophidium schmidti</i> sp. nov. | 642 |
| 138. Camera lucida drawings of bacula of <i>Gorilla beringei</i> and <i>G. gorilla</i> . . . | 646 |

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Number 1

A NEW RODENT FROM DUTCH NEW GUINEA

WILFRED H. OSGOOD
CURATOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

A considerable collection of mammals recently received through Lieutenant Harry Hoogstraal and collected mainly by Stanley G. Jewett, Jr., includes various rare and interesting forms but little represented in American museums. Among the smaller rodents is one quite obviously undescribed which may be called

Paraleptomys rufilatus sp. nov.

Type from Mount Dafonsero, Cyclops Mountains, northeastern Dutch New Guinea. Altitude 4,700 feet. Chicago Natural History Museum No. 54236. Adult male. Collected April 21, 1945, by Stanley G. Jewett, Jr. Orig. No. 722.

Characters.—Generally similar to *P. wilhelmina* (Tate and Archbold, Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 1101, p. 1, 1941), but somewhat larger with broader hind feet and differing widely in color. Tail about equal to or slightly shorter than head and body. Especially characterized by a white throat, a broad fulvous lateral line, and wholly dark-colored legs. Median upper parts narrowly Bone Brown becoming Army Brown laterally and slightly more rufescent on upper sides; a broad (8–10 mm.) lateral line clear Mikado Brown (or Pecan Brown), narrowed antero-posteriorly, but extending from the sides of the neck to the inner sides of the hind legs; top of head dusky as in *wilhelmina* but sides of head more rufescent; under parts with the chin and throat broadly white to roots of hairs, the chest and belly with light-tipped dark-based hairs more or less mixed with fulvous; forelegs and forefeet grayish brown to base of toes, which are abruptly white; inner side of forelegs very narrowly and discontinuously whitish; hind legs including thighs wholly rufescent, clearest on inner sides in confluence with lateral line; hind feet white with brownish of hind legs extending over tarsal joint; tail sooty brownish above, narrowly and irregularly lighter below.

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Skull with all general characters as in *wilhelmina*; size larger; palatine foramina shorter; front of zygomatic plate more excavated and approaching the vertical instead of slanting backward; molariform teeth $\frac{2}{2}$ with pattern quite as in *wilhelmina*.

Measurements.—Type and paratype respectively: total length 260, 267; tail vertebrae 131, 131; hind foot 35, 35. Skull of type: greatest length 35; basilar length 26.7; zygomatic breadth 16.6; breadth of braincase 14.2; interorbital breadth 6.3; length of nasals 13.2; diastema 8.3; palatine foramina 4.5; upper toothrow 4.8.

Remarks.—The pronounced color characters of this species leave no doubt of its distinctness. Direct comparison has been made with *P. wilhelmina*, specimens of which have been lent by the American Museum of Natural History through Mr. G. H. H. Tate.

The pure white throat shown by our specimens is suggestive of the white under parts in certain examples of *Leptomys ernstmayeri*, but whether this has any significance as to the relationship of *Leptomys* and *Paraleptomys* seems doubtful. Ellermann (Fam. and Gen. Rodents, 2, p. 303, under *Caelaenomys*) says: "I think little importance should be attached to the presence or absence of M.3 in this group, as when present the tooth is at the point of suppression." Material, however, is still scanty and present generic separations at least have the advantage of convenience.

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