

tunity of putting on record some conclusions I have reached:—

(1) *Taterona* can be divided into forms with tufted and forms with untufted tails. The former are either heavily tufted, as in the Asiatic genus *Tatera*, e. g., *Taterona nigricauda*, or slightly tufted, e. g., *T. vicina*.

(2) The tufted forms are all, with one exception (*T. guineæ*, from Ginnal, in Portuguese Guinea), confined to North-east Africa. These are all to the north of a line drawn from Mombasa to Morogoro, and thence to Muansa on the south shore of Lake Victoria Nyanza, and of a line drawn from the north-east corner of that lake to Mt. Elgon, and thence to the Nile at the northern extremity of Lake Albert. The untufted forms are found all over Africa except the north-west, and share North-east Africa with the tufted forms.

(3) In the untufted forms the posterior palatal foramina are short and in the tufted long. This is what we should expect to find, since, in the heavily tufted *Tatera* of Asia, the posterior palatal foramina are very long. In *Tatera persica* they are almost as long relatively as in *Taterillus*. Where the posterior foramina are long, the space between the anterior and posterior foramina is short, and *vice versâ*. In the untufted forms, of which there are thirty-one type-specimens in the British Museum, this space measures anything from 3 to 5 mm., except in *nigrita* from Uganda, where it measures 2.6 mm. In the tufted forms, of which the Museum possesses six type-skulls, it measures 2.5 to 3 mm., except in the remote *guineæ* (3.5 mm.) and in *swaythlingi*, the southernmost form (3.6 mm.).

I have treated as "tufted" in this paper *T. robusta*, *macropus*, *nigricauda*, *vicina*, *mombasæ*, *phillipsi*, *umbrosa*, *shoana*, *potheri*, *guineæ*, and *swaythlingi*, and as "untufted" all the other forms, ignoring the subgenus *Gerbilliscus*.

*Vide* also on this subject Hinton and Kershaw, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* (9) vi. p. 98 (July 1920).

#### *Rattus pernanus*, sp. n.

Among a collection of skins sent by the Nairobi Museum in the Kenya Colony to the British Museum recently for identification, there are two of a *Rattus*, which requires description as a new form:—

*Type.* Young adult male. B.M. no. 21.9.6.15. Original number 34. Collected by Mr. R. B. Woosnam on 3rd November, 1912, and presented to the British Museum by the Nairobi Museum.

*Type-locality.* Amala River (also called Mara River), which rises at Kabalot Hill in the Sotik, Kenya Colony, and enters Lake Victoria Nyanza in the Tanganyika Colony at  $1^{\circ} 30' S.$ ,  $34^{\circ} E.$

*Description.*—This is a dwarf form of *Rattus*, in size a trifle smaller than *Mus musculus*. The type measures:—Head and body 76 mm.; tail 65; hind foot 15; ear 14. The measurements of the other specimen are about the same. The hair is soft and long, about 10 mm. in length on the back. Colour very similar to that of *Rattus coucha panya*. The sides and flanks are a rich brown, between “mummy” and “Prout’s” (Ridgway); the back darker, owing to the hairs being tipped with black or dark brown; hairs of the under surface slate-grey with white tips, resulting in a general pearl-grey colour. There is a fairly well-defined tawny-ochraceous stripe dividing the colours of the upper and under surfaces. Tail shorter than head and body, thickly clothed with short appressed hairs, longer on the terminal third, and forming a perceptible pencil at the tip. Colour of tail brown on the proximal two-thirds, and black clothed with whitish hairs on the distal portion; lighter below. Feet and hands white. Large white spot behind the ear.

*Skull:* total length 23.3 mm.; condylo-incisive length 21.3; greatest breadth (at posterior of zygomatic) 12.0; breadth of brain-case 10.3; length of nasals on median line 8.8; inter-orbital constriction 4.

The palatal foramina extend back to about the middle of the anterior central cusp of  $m^1$ ;  $m^1$  equal in length (1.8 mm.) to  $m^2$  and  $m^3$  combined. The incisors and molars are typical of *Rattus* (as distinct from *Mus*), there being no distortion of the first lamina of  $m^1$  nor any subapical notch in the upper incisor.

The two specimens received of this interesting diminutive rat are both males, so that it is not possible at present to give the mammary formula. The indications are that it will prove to belong to the subgenus *Mastomys*, since it has little in common with the other African subgenera of *Rattus*. In general appearance it is like a dwarf *R.* (*Mastomys*) *coucha*, and the proportion of tail to body—about 85 per cent.—is characteristic of the multimammate rats. Practically all the small mouse-like African rats belong to the subgenus *Pranomys*, all the known species of which have very long tails.

The teeth of the type are not much worn, and show that the specimen, though adult, is young. Thus, the measurements given may prove to be on the small side.