

mixed greyish and white, the hairs slaty grey basally, yellowish white terminally. Scrotum orange-yellow. No black markings on muzzle, round eyes, or on ears, all being equally rufous. The whiskers are, however, black. Tail brilliant rufous throughout, some of the hairs of the upper surface subterminally ringed with black.

Skull elongate, smoothly rounded, with short backwardly directed postorbital processes. Nasals much expanded behind, their posterior breadth greater than their anterior. Two upper premolars present.

Dimensions of the type, an adult male, in skin :—

Head and body 258 mm.; tail imperfect (of another specimen, without hairs (c.) 198, with hairs 260); hind foot, moistened, 52.5; ear 19.5.

Skull—greatest length 56; greatest breadth 31.7; nasals, length 15, breadth anteriorly 8, posteriorly 10.3; tip to tip of postorbital processes 23.

Hab. Kombe Forest, Masuku Range, 7000 feet.

Type. ♂. Collected by Mr. A. Whyte, July 1896.

This splendid Squirrel, beside which even *X. palliatus* looked almost dull, was really not closely allied to that animal, but by the general shape of its skull and the expansion of its nasals posteriorly seemed to show a nearer relationship to *X. cepapi* and *X. pyrhopus*. In any case, however, the alliance was a very distant one, and no detailed comparison with these or other species was required to prove its entire distinctness from anything hitherto known.

SACCOSTOMUS ELEGANS, sp. n.

Colour very much as in an Upper Shiré specimen of *S. campestris*, from which it differs in its much longer and narrower skull, slenderer muzzle, less widely open anteorbital foramina, narrower interorbital region, straight front edge of interparietal, and small palatal foramina, which do not reach to the front edge of m.¹.

In some of these cranial characters *S. elegans* agreed with *S. masonae*, De Wint., but differed from that species in its buffy or isabelline colour, instead of the slaty grey which is so peculiar in that form.

Dimensions of the type, in skin, female :—

Head and body 144 mm.; tail 38; hind foot 18.8; ear 15.

Skull—greatest length from tip of nasals to occiput 32.5; nasals 13.3 × 3.7; interorbital breadth 4.2; interparietal 3.2 × 6.4; diastema 10.1; palatal foramina 6 × 2.5; length of upper molar series 4.3.

Hab. Karonga, Lake Nyasa.

MUS NYIKÆ, sp. n.

Similar in size and proportions to *M. chrysophilus*, De Wint., which also occurs on the plateau, but the general colour much browner, duller, and less yellow. The back grizzled black and

buffy yellow, clearer on sides. Belly white, the bases of the hairs slaty. Ears larger and rounded. Upper surface of hands and feet whitish. Tail long, thinly haired, coarsely scaled (10 to the cm.), brown above, rather paler below.

Skull short and broad, with a large rounded brain-case. Muzzle broad and flat. Supraorbital ridges delicate, widely divergent behind. Palatal foramina very long, reaching to the middle of m^1 . Posterior palate reaching more than 1 mm. behind m^1 . Incisors narrow, very pale-coloured, nearly or quite white near their tips. Molars broad and rounded, their cusps well defined.

Dimensions of the type, in skin :—

Head and body 157 mm.; tail 151; hind foot 27; ear 18.

Skull—basilar length 30; greatest breadth 19; nasals 14×4.4 ; interorbital breadth 5.2; interparietal 9×3.4 ; palate-length from henselion 18; diastema 10.1; palatal foramina 10×2.1 ; length of upper molar series 6.7.

Hab. Nyika plateau.

GEORYCHUS WHYTEI, sp. n.

Similar in size, character and colour of fur, and other external characters to *G. nimrodi*, De Wint., more silvery buff than *G. hottentottus*. No trace of a white frontal spot.

Skull heavy, particularly broad across the interorbital region, and with strong, very widely expanded zygomata. Nasals narrow in front, rapidly broadening to their middle, and then evenly narrowing again to a point posteriorly. Ascending processes of premaxillæ considerably surpassing nasals, unusually broad posteriorly, 3 mm. broad at the fronto-maxillary suture, and tending in old age to unite behind the nasals. Anteorbital foramen high. Other cranial characters much as in *G. hottentottus*.

Dimensions of type (♀), in skin :—

Head and body (stretched) 177 mm., hind foot (*c.*) 22.

Skull—basilar length 32.6; greatest breadth 30; nasals 13.2×4 ; interorbital breadth 11.2; palate-length from henselion 23.2; diastema 14.

Hab. Karonga, Lake Nyasa (*A. Whyte*, July 1896). A Mole-rat, apparently of the same species, was also found up to the extreme top of the Nyika plateau.

THRYONOMYS¹ SCLATERI, sp. n.

Most nearly related to *T. gregorianus*, Thos., of which the external characters have not as yet been described. General colour very much as in *T. swinderenianus*, but the pelage, though more hispid than ordinary fur, is much softer and more flaccid than in the common form. Tail nearly twice the length of the hind foot. Posterior belly and axillary region whitish.

Skull rather smaller than the typical skull of *T. gregorianus*, although decidedly older. Nasals parallel-sided. Frontal pre-

¹ Attention may be again drawn to the fact that *Aulacodus*, Temm. (1827), was preoccupied by Eschscholz (1823), and therefore that the name *Thryonomys*, Fitz. (1867), should stand for this genus.