

*Beamys hindei*, sp. n.

Size that of a medium *Mus*. Fur soft and fine; hairs of back about 10 mm. in length. General colour, so far as can be made out on a spirit-specimen, very much that of *Saccostomus campestris*, uniform greyish or greyish brown above, pure white below. Ears not large, laid forward, in a spirit-specimen, they only just reach the posterior canthus of the eye, rounded, almost naked, greyish.

Forearms, hands, and feet white. Claws, both fore and hind, small; pollex with a nail; soles naked, with six prominent pads; fifth hind toe, without claw, reaching to the end of the first phalanx of the fourth. Tail about as long as the head and body, very peculiar in shape and structure; its top, sides, and under surface flattened, with sharp edges, its lower side broader than its upper, so that its section is like that of a truncated pyramid. Basal half-inch hairy like the body, the remainder practically naked, the few fine hairs not hiding the skin; dermal rings excessively fine, 22-24 to the centimetre in the middle of the tail, not divided into separate scales, but apparently simple transverse folds in the skin. In colour the tail is grey basally and white terminally, the two passing into each other by a series of coarse mottlings, the grey predominating on two-thirds of the upper and one-third of the lower surface. Mammæ 2-2=8.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 106 mm.; tail 100; hind foot 20·7; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 33; basilar length 26·5; zygomatic breadth 15·5; nasals 11·2; interorbital breadth 4·9; palatilar length 15·2; diastema 10·5; palatal foramina 4·7; upper molar series 5·1.

*Hab.* Taveta, Coast region, British East Africa. Alt. 2000'.

*Type.* Subadult female. B.M. no. 9.6.12.23. Original number 615. Collected 26 June, 1908, and presented by Dr. S. L. Hinde.

This interesting animal forms a striking addition to the many mammalian discoveries made by Dr. and Mrs. Hinde in British East Africa. Their continued help has been of vital service to the National Museum, and the finding of such a distinct new genus is a fitting reward for the benefits they have rendered to us.