

XXVI.—Three new African Mice of the Genus *Dendromus*.  
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*Dendromus nyasæ*, sp. n.

Near *D. mesomelas*, but tail shorter.

General characters, including the presence of a claw on the fifth hind toe, as in *D. mesomelas*. Colour above about as in that species, though rather darker, this difference being more marked on the flanks, which are less fulvous and more tawny. Under surface more heavily mixed with slaty, the white ends to the hairs shorter, and only those on the chin white to the roots. A well-marked black dorsal stripe present. Tail decidedly shorter than in *mesomelas*, dark brown above, a little lighter below.

Skull about as in *mesomelas*.

Dimensions of the type (taken on skin):—

Head and body 80 mm.; tail (vertebræ *in situ*) 85; hind foot (wet) 20·5.

Skull: greatest length 22·5; condylo-incisive length 20·2; zygomatic breadth 11·6; nasals 8·3; breadth of brain-case 10; palatilar length 9·3; palatal foramina 4·9; upper molar series 3·5; length of  $m^1$  2·1.

*Hab.* Nyika Plateau, N. Nyasa. Alt. 6500'.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 97.10.1.121. Original number 119. Collected June 1896 by Mr. A. Whyte, and presented by Sir H. H. Johnston.

This species is based on the two specimens of true *Dendromys* with greyish bellies which, as indicated in a previous paper, were mixed up in Mr. Wroughton's account of his *D. nyikæ*. That species, as identified by the type skin, is a *Poemys*, with a nail on the hind toe, although, misled by these specimens, Mr. Wroughton stated that it had a claw.

*D. nyasæ* differs from its nearest ally, *D. mesomelas*, by its markedly shorter tail and darker-coloured flanks and under surface. There does not seem to be any sufficient reason for distinguishing *D. ayresi*, Roberts, from *D. mesomelas*, any more than the same author's *D. longicaudatus* from *D. melanotis*, but neither reasons for distinction nor general characters are, in any of this author's descriptions, sufficiently clearly stated to make certainty possible. Topotypical specimens give, therefore, the only means of elucidating his names, and in the present instance the Museum contains examples supporting the identifications I now make.