

Additional records of Botswana Rodents

by XAVIER MISONNE

An expedition sponsored by the LEOPOLD III Fund (Belgium) travelled in Botswana from October 21 to December 12, 1978.

The main objective was the collecting of rodents, birds and fishes in little known parts of Botswana, mainly the Okwa dry river bed in Central Kalahari Reserve and the part of the country lying South of the Caprivi Strip. We received all authorizations from the Game Department of Botswana and we were helped in the most efficient way by Mr. WILLIAMSON who obtained all the needed permits.

The Okwa river bed was the most interesting part. The progress in this region is made difficult by soft sand but the fauna was surprisingly rich with many rodents and large specimens of Kudu antilopes.

I wish to thank here the Botswana Game Department officials for their kind help and also Dr. RAUTENBACH, Transvaal Museum, who made everything easy in Pretoria for the preparation of the journey.

Pedetes capensis damarensis Roberts

Nine specimens: SE shore of Lake Dow.

Graphiurus murinus (Desmarest)

The only specimen captured comes from the Eastern Kalahari Game Reserve, 20 km SW of Metse-a-Manung, on the banks of the dry Marang river bed; it was captured at the foot of an acacia.

Xerus inauris Ehrenberg

Three specimens from 18 km SE of Rakops, and four from SE shore of Lake Dow.

Paraxerus cepapi Smith

10 specimens are representatives of *P.c. kalaharicus* Roberts: 8 km N of Tsau (1), Habu (6), Tsodilo Hills (2), Samushima (1); two specimens represent *P.c. chobiensis* Robert: Litchao (1), Selinda spillway (1) and six specimens belong to the form *mau-*

nensis Roberts: 10 km E of Sehitwa, Saile camp (1), Morema South Gate (1) and 8 km E of Makalamabedi (3).

Acomys spinosissimus selousi de Winton

Four specimens were captured 10 km N of Gaberones, on kopjes.

Praomys natalensis microdon (Peters)

142 specimens were captured: Marang river bed, 21°20'S; 24°08'E (1); 8 km N of Tsau (9); Habu (17); Samushima (64); Mohembo (15); 24 km S Mohembo, East bank (4); Sheshenge (3); Litchao (2); Savuti bridge (2); Saile camp (4); Moremi South Gate (1); Makalamabedi (11); 18 km SE Rakops (4); SE shore Lake Dow (8). It is to be noted that not a single specimen of *Praomys shortridgei* (Thomas & Hinton) was captured at Samushima nor at Mohembo on what should have been favourable ground for this species.

Aethomys chrysophilus (de Winton)

Eight specimens captured: Derdepoort, S.A. (2); 75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung, dry river bed of Marang river (1); Tsodilo Hill (1) and 11 km N of Gaberones (4).

Aethomys namaquensis (Smith)

Eleven specimens were collected; four of these are very pale in colour with white bellies, all four specimens collected 75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung, Central Kalahari. Another specimen from Tsodilo Hills has also a white belly; all the other specimens show darker backs and grey bellies: one from Tsodilo Hills, one from Habu and four from 11 km N of Gaberones.

Gerbillurus paeba paeba (Smith)

Only one specimen was captured in a xerophitic prairie on the South East shore of Lake Dow.

Tatera brantsi griquae Wroughton

19 specimens collected: 90 km N of Khutse (1); 75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung (5); Okwa dry river bed, 21°50'S; 24°00'E (4); Okwa river bed, 21°45'S; 24°05'E (7); SE shore of Lake Dow (3). In the dry river beds of the fossil rivers Okwa and Marang, the burrows of *Tatera brantsi* and *T. leucogaster* were so numerous that the progress of the vehicles was extremely difficult.

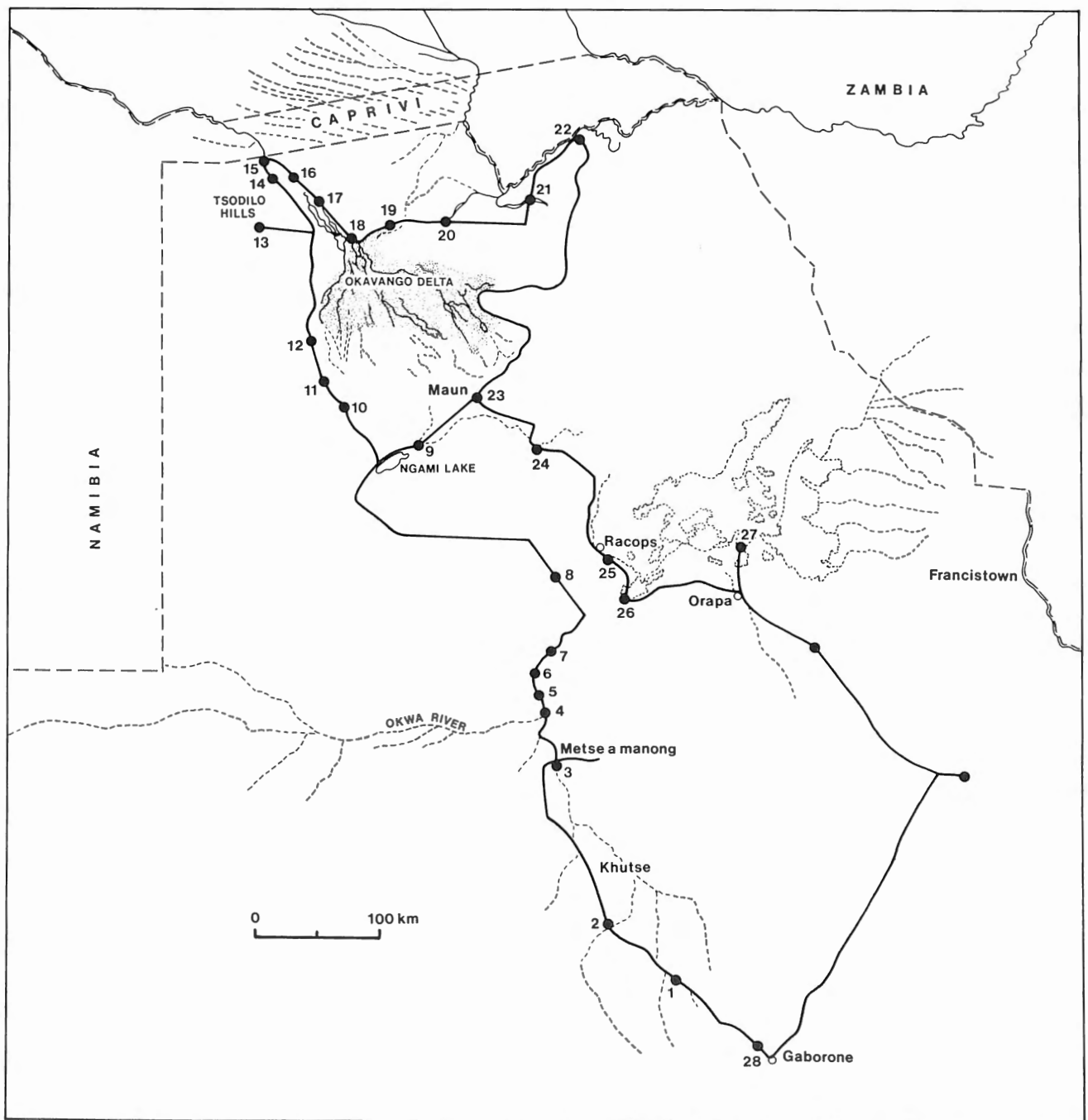
Tatera leucogaster (Peters)

62 specimens collected: between Molepolole and Letlaking (5); 20 km SW of Metse-a-Manung (2);

75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung (8); Merran river bed 21°50'S; 24°00'E (6); Okwa river bed 21°45'S; 24°05'E (2); 21°20'S; 24°08'E (4); Habu (2); 25 km N of Etcha (9); Mohembo (3); 24 km S of Mohembo, left bank (3); Sheshenge (5); Kamutsi, 74 km NE of Seronga (2); Selinda passage (4); Savuti bridge (3); ford E of Mokalamabedi (3); SE shore of Lake Dow (3); Makarikari Pan, South (2); 11 km N of Gaberones (1).

Saccostomus campestris (Peters)

Twenty two specimens: 75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung (5); Okwa river bed 21°45'S; 24°05'E (7); Habu (2); Mohembo (3); Makalamabedi (1).



Steatomys pratensis maunensis Roberts

All the specimens were trapped on the SW shores of the Okavango delta: 8 km N of Tsau (5); Habu (2).

Some other small mammals were captured during this expedition: *Elephantulus myurus* Thomas & Schwann: 11 km of Gaberones (2); *Lepus saxatilis* Cuvier: Habu (1); Litchao (1); *Helogale parvula* (Subdevall): 8 km N of Tsau (3); *Mungos mungo* G. & C.: Savuti bridge (2); *Cynictis penicillata* (Cuvier): 75 km NW of Metse-a-Manung (1); *Ictonyx striatus* (Perry): 21°45'S; 26°06'E.

List of collecting stations

			N°
23.10.78	Derdepoort, S.A.	24°36'S ; 26°25'E	–
25.10	between Molepolole and Letlaking	24°15'S ; 25°15'E	1
26.10	70 km SE of Khutse	23°07'S ; 24°14'E	2
27.10	20 km SW Metse-a-Manung	22°35'S ; 24°23'E	3
28.10	75 km NW Metse-a-Manung, Marang riv.	22°22'S ; 24°13'E	4
29.10	Okwa dry river bed	21°50'S ; 24°00'E	5
30.10	Okwa dry river bed	21°45'S ; 24°05'E	6-7
31.11	fence track	21°20'S ; 24°08'E	8
1.11	10 km E Sehitwa	20°23'S ; 22°46'E	9
4.11	8 km N Tsau	22°29'S ; 20°06'E	10
5/6.11	Habu	19°51'S ; 22°23'E	11
8.11	25 km N Etcha crossing	19°00'S ; 22.10'E	12
9.11	Tsodilo Hills	18°46'S ; 21°47'E	13
10/11.11	Samuchima fishing camp	18°24'S ; 21°53'E	14
12/13.11	Mohembo	18°16'S ; 21°47'E	15
14.11	24 km S Mohembo, left bank Okavango	18°24'S ; 22°00'E	16
15.11	Sheshenge	18°24'S ; 22°00'E	17
16.11	Litchao	18°45'S ; 22°20'E	18
18.11	Kamutsi	18°38'S ; 22°53'E	19
19.11	Selinga passage, South bank	18°39'S ; 23°16'E	20
21.11	Savuti bridge	18°33'S ; 23°53'E	21
23.11	Saile camp	18°06'S ; 24°07'E	22
25.11	Moremi South Gate	19°26'S ; 23°39'E	23
1/2.12	8 km E Makalamabedi	20°18'S ; 23°59'E	24
3.12	18 km S Rakops	21°07'S ; 24°34'E	25
4/5.12	SE Lake Dow	21°22'S ; 24°47'E	26
8.12	Makarikari Pan	21°06'S ; 25°22'E	27
10/11.12	11 km N Gaberone, kopje	24°35'S ; 25°52'E	28

The n° refer to the map.