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THE OCCURRENCE
OF DELANYMYS BROOKSI (RODENTIA, MURIDAE)
IN THE CONGO,

by Robert William HAYMAN (London).

The recent discovery in Southwest Uganda of a small rodent representing a new genus and species in the subfamily Dendromurinae, *Delanymys brooksi* HAYMAN (1962), based on a single specimen, led naturally to the hope that further collecting might before long lead to the production of more material for examination. It was, however, quite unexpected that further material should become available within a short time, and particularly that it should consist of specimens collected 27 years ago in the former Belgian Congo, and hitherto not recognised.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. D. H. S. DAVIS, of the Medical Ecology Centre, Johannesburg, for calling my attention to his discovery of two skins with skulls of the new genus and species in the rodent collection of the Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique at Brussels. Mr. DAVIS was at the time engaged in a study of the African rodents in the Institut when he recognised the distinctness of the two specimens. I would like to express here my gratitude to the authorities of the Institut, and in particular to Dr. Xavier MISONNE, head of the Section of Recent Vertebrates, for making it possible for me to examine these specimens personally in Brussels.

They are an adult ♂, collector's number 179, registered number 4485, and an adult ♀, collector's number 180, registered number 4486, both collected by G. F. DE WITTE between the 7th and 23rd January 1935 at Kashwa étang, Parc National Albert, Kivu. Kashwa is listed in the gazetteer of DE WITTE's collecting localities (DE WITTE, 1937) as

between Ngesho and the River Bishakishaki, at an elevation of 2,000 metres, and is shown on his map on the western border of the Parc National Albert at about 1° 18' South, 29° 06' East, roughly ten miles north-northwest of the peak of Nyamuragira. The swamp lies among montane forest.

Both specimens are listed by FRECHKOP (1938) under the heading of *Praomys tullbergi montis* THOMAS and WROUGHTON, as juveniles of an adult ♀ number 178. The latter, on examination, is clearly a *Rattus (Hylomyscus)* sp., with a head and body length of 99, tail 112, hind-foot 17.5, ear 13 : skull total length 23, upper cheekteeth 4.4. SCHOUTEDEN (1947), obviously following FRECHKOP, also lists *Praomys tullbergi montis* from Kashwa.

Examination of the two *Delanymys* skins and skulls shows that they possess all the distinctive features of the type. In colour pattern, character of the pelage, proportion of limbs and tail to head and body, characters of skull and teeth, they agree very closely with the type. In both, unfortunately, the tail tips have been broken off, but it is clear that with the tails intact the tail length in relation to head and body length would have been very close to that of the type.

Although neither of the skulls is fully complete, it has been possible to obtain accurate measurements of nearly all the standard dimensions : the zygomatic breadth is the only measurement unobtainable. The teeth show some wear but the pattern is clear. There are, unfortunately, no field measurements for the skins, but measurements taken carefully on the dry skins indicate close approach to those of the type.

In the following table the external and cranial measurements of the two Congo specimens are shown in comparison with those of the type.

It may be noted that the discovery of *Delanymys brooksi* at Kashwa not only extends the range into the Congo; it establishes the distribution as being on both east and west sides of the Albertine Rift, the type locality being in Kigezi, S. W. Uganda, east of the Rift, while Kashwa lies at about the same latitude on the hills bordering the Rutshuru Valley on the west. The habitat in the Congo, a swamp in montane forest, appears to be similar to that in Uganda.

SUMMARY.

The occurrence of the rodent *Delanymys brooksi* HAYMAN in the former Belgian Congo is reported. Measurements of two skins and skulls are given.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY.

Measurements of *Delanymys brooksi*.

	♂ ad. Kashwa No. 179	♀ ad. Kashwa No. 180	♂ ad. Kigezi Type
Head and body	c.56	c.57	57
Tail	87 (c.100)	83 (c.100)	100
Hind foot	c.17	c.17	17
Ear	c.10	c.11	10
Skull			
Occipitonasal length	18.8	18.4	17.3
Condylbasal length	c.16	16.3	16
Zygomatic breadth	—	—	9.6
Braincase breadth	9.5	9.4	9.0
Interorbital breadth	2.8	2.8	2.6
Zygomatic plate breadth ...	1.5	1.5	1.4
Nasal length	5.8	6.2	5.8
Upper anterior angle of infra- orbital foramen to tip of nasals (a)	4.6	5.0	4.0
Upper anterior angle of infra- orbital foramen to occiput (b)	14.0	13.9	13.4
Percentage of (a) to (b) ...	32.8 %	35.9 %	29.8 %
Percentage of (a) to occipi- tonasal length	24.4 %	27.1 %	23.1 %
Palatal length	7.9	8.0	7.5
Palatal breadth outside m ³ -m ³	3.5	3.5	3.4
Palatal foramina length	3.5	3.5	3.6
Bullae length and breadth ...	3.7 × 3.3	3.5 × 2.8	3.6 × 2.8
M ¹ length	1.1	1.1	1.2
M ² - M ³ length	1.2	1.3	1.3
Upper toothrow length	2.3	2.4	2.5
Mandible length	10.7	10.3	10.5
Lower toothrow length	2.4	2.3	2.4

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