

A new sub-species of Malaysian Rat

By C. BODEN KLOSS

Considering how systematically the Malay Peninsula—and more especially the Malay States of its southern portion—has been trapped for small mammals I was much surprised to receive last year from the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur (through Mr. B. A. R. Gater) three examples of a rat entirely unknown to me; while early this year Mr. E. Banks, Curator of the Sarawak Museum, obtained and forwarded two more examples from the neighbourhood of Kuching—also a locality well explored zoologically. This rat seems to be related to the animal from the Banjak Islands, N. W. Sumatra, for which Miller has proposed the genus *Lenothrix* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xxvi, 1903, p. 466, pl. xviii: *Lenothrix canus* gen. et sp. nov.). It is considerably smaller, however, and differs in other characters.

***Rattus canus malaisia* subsp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Upper pelage mixed with long piles but quite devoid of flattened spines; under parts creamy white sharply margined; hind-feet short and broad; tail black proximally, distally white throughout for half or two-thirds of its length where it is

¹. Journ. Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Soc., No. 83, 1921, pp. 147—150. In this paper I inadvertently gave a name (*Sus branti*) to the Sumatran representative of *Sus gargantua* Miller, of S. E. Borneo.

fairly thickly clad with white hairs increasing towards the tip and forming a pencil.

Mammae four pairs, three pectoral and one inguinal.

Skull broad; infra-orbital plate narrow, scarcely visible viewed from above; bullae moderate, only a little more dilated than in the Malaysian spiny rats; teeth large.

Colour:—White of under parts extending to wrists, ankles and sides of muzzle. Upper parts and outer sides of limbs variable:—apparently in fresh pelage the general colour is mouse-grey¹ or hair-brown² slightly darkened along the dorsal line by the longer piles and rendered paler on the shoulders and flanks by the light buffy tips of the softer hairs, the grey bases of which are considerably exposed on the sides. Eventually the upper parts appear to “burn” or “bleach” to drab, tinged with ferruginous in places³. Hands and feet approximate in colour to the outer sides of the limbs.

Skull:—Broad; rostrum robust: nasals extending posteriorly to about the level of the orbital space; infra-orbital plate narrow, retreating as it ascends, not projecting anteriorly; frontals strongly beaded, the beading sharply angular at the fronto-parietal suture; combined palatal foramina ovoid in outline, short; interpterygoid space large, extending well between the posterior molars; bullae only moderately dilated. Teeth large and tooththrows long.

Type:—Adult male, skin and skull. Collected at Sungei Buloh near Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Malay Peninsula, 26th June, 1930.

Specimens examined:—Two males and a female⁴ from the type locality and a pair from Matang Road near Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo. It is noted of the latter that one was trapped in virgin forest, the other in secondary growth.

Remarks:—This species bears externally, on account of its colour and pied tail, a superficial resemblance to animals of the *bowersi-ferreocanus-berdmorei-mullulus* group with which, however, it is in no way connected. The broad skull, orange incisors and short feet are very different from the elongate wedge-shaped skull, ivory incisors and long feet of the others. The softer fur also contrasts with the more hispid pelage of the Indo-Chinese rats, only one of which extends into Malaysia (*R. ferreocanus*: mountains of the Malay Peninsula).

1. Bornean specimen, subadult.

2. Malayan specimens, adult.

3. Malayan specimen, adult.

4. Not available for the moment. It has a darkened patch on the abdomen and the white portion of the tail shorter than in the others.

ON BATS FROM THE LIMESTONE CAVES OF NORTH BORNEO

MEASUREMENTS	Selangor ♂ . Type	Selangor ♂	Sarawak ♂	Sarawak ♀ subad.
<i>Rattus malaisia</i>				
Head and body ...	190	163	175	175
Tail ...	215	223	234	221
Hind foot, s. u. ...	35	33	33	32
Ear ...	24	21	—	—
Skull:—				
Greatest length ...	43.9	44	44.5	41
Condyllo-basilar length	39.2	39	40	37
Diastema ...	12	11.5	12.2	10.9
Length of palatal for- amina ...	6	6.4	6.1	5.8
Median nasal length ...	15	15	16	14.9
Breadth of combined nasals ...	5.9	5.2	5	5
Zygomatic breadth ...	23.5	22.5	22.1	21
Upper molar row (alveoli) ...	8.1	8.8	9	8.4