

XXXIV. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MOUSE FROM THE MADURA DISTRICT, MADRAS

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This mouse is common round Rámanád town and digs shallow burrows there, in which it brings forth its young.

Seven specimens in alcohol and two skins are in the Museum. They were collected in August, 1905, by Dr. Annandale, and were found in company with *Mus (Leggada) buduga*.

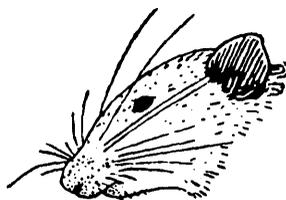


FIG. 1.—Head of *Mus (Leggada) ramnadensis*.

Description.—Altogether a larger mouse than *M. buduga*. Fur longer than in this species, and inclined, in older animals, to be slightly spiny in the dorsal region. Tail shorter than head and body. Ear of medium length, rounded and, when turned forward, reaching the posterior extremity of the eye. Feet as in *M. buduga*, but longer and narrower. Skull very long for the size of the body. The nasal bones especially are very long, and give the animal in the flesh rather a shrew-like appearance. Molars as in *M. buduga* (see C, text-fig. 2).

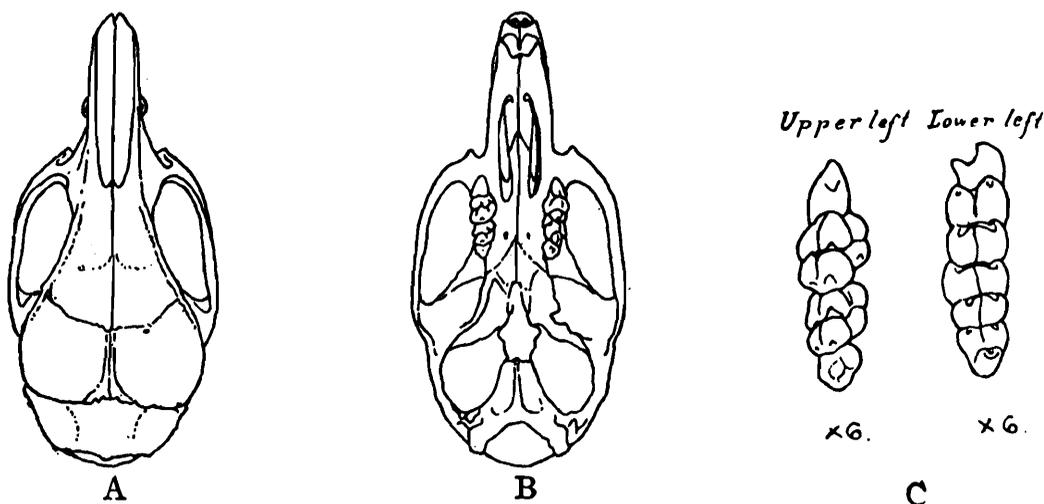


FIG. 2.—*Mus (Leggada) ramnadensis*: A = skull from above; B = skull from below; $\times 2$; C = Molars.

Colour.—In all eight specimens this is constant, being a light, almost golden fawn on the upper parts, lighter towards the side of the head. Hair on upper parts ash-grey for basal two-thirds, a sub-terminal ring of light golden fawn, the extreme tips dark brown. Ears dark silver grey both inside and out. Under parts and upper lip dead white, each hair being of the same white throughout.

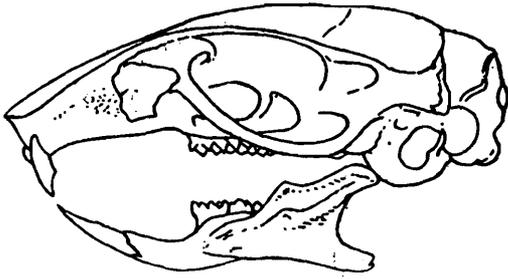


FIG. 3.—Side view of skull of *M. ramnadensis*.

Tail clay-colour above, lighter below, and faintly ringed throughout its length.

Dimensions.—The following are measurements of two small females in the flesh taken by Dr. Annandale:—

Head and body ..	66 mm.	55 mm.
Tail .	61 ,,	50 ,,
Ear .	10 ,,	8 ,,
Hind foot .	13 ,,	10 ,,

Measurements of dry skin of full-grown male:—

Head and body	77 mm.
Tail	55 ,,
Ear	10 ,,
Hind foot	16 ,,

Measurements of two male skulls:—

Total length	25 mm.	25 mm.
Breadth, zygoma to zygoma	12 ,,	11 ,,
Length nasals	11 ,,	11 ,,

Some of the specimens were sent to the British Museum, where Mr. Wroughton stated that they might prove to be identical with Blyth's *Mus albidiventris* (*cf. Mem. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, vol. i, p. 22). Blyth, however, afterwards admitted that this mouse was identical with *Mus cervicolor*.

In any case there seems to be no specimen of "*albidiventris*" in existence, and, as Blyth's description of this animal appears to be too short to be definitive, it would be better to drop the species altogether. The mouse under discussion is certainly not *Mus cervicolor*, as can be judged from the above description. I propose, therefore, to make a new species and call it *Mus (Leggada) ramnadensis*, sp. nov., in virtue of the locality whence it was obtained.

