

ZOOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE INDIAN CHO-OYU
EXPEDITION (1958) IN NEPAL

PART 3.—MAMMALS

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I—INTRODUCTION

The mammal collection made by the Indian Cho-Oyu Expedition (1958) in Nepal consists of only three specimens comprising three species belonging to Orders Lagomorpha and Rodentia. The only other account of the mammals of the area (Khumbu Dist., Eastern Nepal) appears to be by Biswas and Khajuria (1955, 1957).

All measurements are in millimetres. The measurements of the skulls are according to the system of Ellerman (1947).

II—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order 1. LAGOMORPHA

Family OCHOTONIDAE

Genus *Ochotona* Link

Ochotona macrotis ? *macrotis* (Günther)

1875. *Lagomys macrotis* Günther, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, London (4) 16, p. 231, Doba, Kuenlun Mountains, extreme southern Chinese Turkestan (on road from Yarkand to Karakoram Pass, Blanford).

Material.—1 ex., ♀, Sta. No. 23A (Gorashan, ca. 5,334 m. Khumbu Dist., Eastern Nepal), 25-iv-58.

Field notes.—Collected in loose rocks.

Systematic and other notes.—The specimen closely resembles the one referred to this form by Biswas and Khajuria (1957, p. 241). However, since both these specimens are alcoholic and unmeasured, no further

remarks on their subspecific identification can be given except those already made by these authors.

Measurements.—

Hind-foot, 29 ; *ear*, 24·5.

(From an alcoholic specimen.)

Skull : *Occipitonasal length*, 45 ; *palate*, 18·5 ; *diastema*, 10·3 ; *palatal foramen*, 12·2 ; *bulla*, 10·5 ; *upper tooth row*, 8·7 ; *condylobasal length*, 41·4.

Distribution.—Russian Tianshan and Pamir Mountains, Kashmir, northward to Karakoram Mountains, Kuenlun Mountains in Southern Chinese Turkestan , Eastern Nepal.

Order 2. RODENTIA

Family MURIDAE

Subfamily 1. MURINAE

Genus 1. *Rattus* Fischer

Rattus rattus ? *khumbuensis* Biswas and Khajuria

1955. *Rattus rattus khumbuensis* Biswas and Khajuria, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, Calcutta, 8(1), p. 27, Porcha, alt. ca. 4,267 m., Dudh Kosi Valley, Khumbu Dist., Eastern Nepal.

Material.—1 ex., juv. ♂, Sta. No. 18 (Thangboche Monastery Building, alt. ca. 4,158 m., Khumbu Dist., Eastern Nepal), 16. iv. 58.

Systematic and other notes.—The specimen is juvenile with the third molar in the course of eruption and cannot subspecifically be determined with certainty. It, however, appears close to *R. r. khumbuensis* B. & K. except that the dorsal coloration is somewhat darker and the underside a bit paler.

Measurements.—

Head and body, 73·4 ; *tail*, 97·5 , *hind-foot*, 25·2 ; *ear*, 13·7. (From an alcoholic specimen.)

Skull *Occipitonasal length*, 31·5 ; *palate*, 16·1 ; *diastema*, 8·0 ; *palatal foramen*, 4·7 ; *bulla*, 5·3 ; *upper tooth row*, 6·1 ; *condylobasal length*, 28·8.

Distribution.—High altitudes of Khumbu District, Eastern Nepal.

Subfamily 2. MICROTINE

Genus 2. *Alticola* Blanford

Alticola stoliczkanus stracheyi (Thomas)

1880. *Arvicola stracheyi* Thomas, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, London, (5) 6, p. 322. Ladak. Originally cited as Kumari, but see Hinton, 1926, p. 322.

Material.—1 ex., Sta. No. 23A (on way to Gorasham, alt. ca. 334 m., Khumbu District, Eastern Nepal), 25. iv. 58.

Field notes.—Collected in loose rocks.

Systematic and other notes.—Biswas and Khajuria (1957) recorded this vole from the same district and from a similar altitude.

Measurements.—

Body : *head and body*, 81·8 ; *tail*, 20·0 ; *hind-foot*, 18 ; *ear*, 8·5
(From an alcoholic specimen).

Skull : *Occipitonasal length*, 26·3 ; *palate*, 14·1 ; *diastema* 8·6 ; *palatal foramen*, 5·0 ; *bulla*, 5·7 ; *upper tooth row*, 6·2 ; *condylobasal length*, 27·2.

Distribution.—From Kashmir (Ladak) to Mount Everest (Eastern Nepal).

III—SUMMARY

Three species belonging to orders Lagomorpha and Rodentia are recorded from the Khumbu District, Eastern Nepal in the vicinity of Cho-Oyu peak.

IV—REFERENCES

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