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A CASE OF AN ABNORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF A FORELIMB IN A
FAWN-COLOURED MOUSE, *MUS CERVICOLOR* HODGSON

Although some instances of abnormalities in the limb bones of mammals particularly of rodents are known from literature (Hütter, 1950 and Deol, 1957). However, no case of anomaly in the limb bones of the Fawn-coloured Mouse, *Mus cervicolor* Hodgson, has so far been recorded. The present finding of an example of anomalous forelimb in a specimen of the mouse, is, therefore, of considerable interest.

While working on a small collection of mammals from Bikaner, Rajasthan, made by Dr. P. D. Gupta of the Gangetic Plains, Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Patna, (date of collection 15th February 1962) the author came across a very interesting male specimen of the Fawn-coloured Mouse, *Mus cervicolor* Hodgson, Z. S. I. Registration No. 19936, in which the forelimbs were unequal in size, the right one being normal in size and shape, while the left was unusually short (Pl. X). From measurements it was found that the two humerii were more or less normal in size, only the left humerus is 0.5 mm shorter than the right one. The right humerus differs in structure from that of the left one by having an ill-developed deltoid ridge. The radius and ulna of the

left forelimb were much shorter, at least by 3.00 mm, than those of the right one, and were also weaker. They were found lying just by the side of the humerus. The position of the fore-and hindlimbs was another interesting feature. In normal condition the right and left humerii and also the right and left femora are found to be situated in the same horizontal level, but in this case the right humerus and femur have been shifted somewhat forward in relation to that of the left humerus and femur.

It is difficult to say anything definite about the cause of the above-mentioned abnormality. However, this abnormality might have taken place due to some accident during the early part of its life, as a result of which the radius and ulna got detached from the humerus and failed to grow in the normal way.

Measurements :

	Right forelimb	Left forelimb
Humerus	11.9 mm	11.4 mm
Radius and Ulna	14.6 mm	11.6 mm

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