

NEW MAMMAL RECORDS FROM WEST BENGAL

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During the faunistic survey of Bankura and Purulia districts of West Bengal, 20 species of mammals were collected. Out of these, four species, namely, *Funambulus palmarum* (Linnaeus), *Rattus blanfordi* (Thomas), *Mus dunnii* (Wroughton) and *Mus saxicola* Elliot were found to be unrecorded from this State (*vide* Blanford, 1891 ; Wroughton, 1919 ; Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, 1951 ; Ellerman, 1961 ; and Marshall, 1977). Hence, they are reported hereunder.

All measurements are in millimetre and are taken after Ellerman (1961). The mean values are given in parentheses. The external measurements have been taken of freshly killed specimens in the field and the skull measurements in the laboratory.

The authors are thankful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, for providing necessary facilities, and to Dr. B. Biswas, Emeritus Scientist, for going through the manuscript.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order RODENTIA

Family SCIURIDAE

Funambulus palmarum (Linnaeus)

Material : 1 ♀ : Matha, Purulia dist., 15 Jan 1985 ; 1 ♀ : Ajodhya Hills, Purulia dist., 17 Jan 1985. Coll. V. C. Agrawal.

Measurements : External : 2 ♀ : Head and body 146, 151 ; tail 126, 131 ; hindfoot 37, 38 ; ear 15, 17.

Cranial : 1 ♀ : Occipitonasal 38.4 ; condylobasal 35.5 ; nasal 11.5 ; palate 19.6 ; upper toothrow 6.9 ; bulla 7.2 ; zygomatic width 21.3 ; interorbital width 10.7 ; diastema 9.5.

Distribution : The known range of distribution of this species is peninsular India extending north to Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, and Sri Lanka. The present collection, therefore, constitutes its first record from West Bengal.

Remarks : Dorsal pelage of one specimen is light maroon which appears to be a case of partial albinism.

Family MURIDAE

Rattus blanfordi (Thomas)

Material : 5 ♂ : Matha, Purulia dist., 15-16 Jan 1985 ; 1 ♂, 4 ♀ : Ajodhya Hills, Purulia dist., 17-19 Jan 1985. Coll. V. C. Agrawal.

Measurements : External : 6 ♂, 4 ♀ : Head and body 151-182 (163.9) ; tail 185-202 (195.8) ; hindfoot 32-36.5 (33.7) ; ear 25-27 (25.9). Cranial : 6 ♂, 4 ♀ : Occipitonasal 40.6-43.9 (41.8) ; condylobasal 36.7-39.6

(37.7); nasal 15-17.2 (15.9); palate 19.8-21.6 (20.6); upper toothrow 6-7 (6.5); bulla 7.9-8.4 (8.1); anterior palatal foramina 7.8-9.5 (8.5); zygomatic width 18.4-19.9 (19.3); interorbital width 6.1-6.5 (6.2); diastema 10.3-11.4 (10.7); mandible 20-22.1 (20.7).

Distribution: The known range of this species in India is the southern India extending north to Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Hence, the present collection is its first record from West Bengal.

Mus dunni (Wroughton)

Material: 1 ♀ : Susunia, Bankura dist., 7 Jan. 1985. Coll. V. C. Agrawal.

Measurements: External : 1 ♀ : Head and body 75 ; tail 55 ; hindfoot 14.5 ; ear 12.

Cranial: 1 ♀ : Occipitonasal 19.5 ; condylobasal 19.2 ; nasal 7.0 ; palate 10.4 ; upper toothrow 3.2 ; bulla 3.1 ; anterior palatal foramina 4.5 ; zygomatic width 9.9 ; interorbital width 3.2 ; diastema 5.3 ; mandible 11.2.

Distribution: This species has so far been reported from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The present collection from West Bengal extends its range much eastwards.

Mus saxicola Elliot

Material: 4 ♂, 1 ♀ : Susunia Hills, Bankura dist., 6-8 Jan 1985 ; 2 ♂, 2 ♀ : Raniband, Bankura dist., 11-13 Jan 1985 ; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : Kuilapal, Purulia dist., 22 Jan 1985. Coll. V. C. Agrawal.

Measurements: External : 7 ♂, 5 ♀ : Head and body 80-99 (87.3) ; tail 63-74 (69.7) ; hindfoot 17-19 (18.1) ; ear 15.5-17 (16.2). Cranial : 7 ♂, 5 ♀ : Occipitonasal

23-27 (24.7) ; condylobasal 22.2-26.3 (23.8) ; nasal 9.2-11.8 (10.2) ; palate 12.5-14.4 (13.3) ; upper toothrow 4.1-4.7 (4.4) ; bulla 3.6-4.3 (3.9) ; anterior palatal foramina 5.2-6.7 (5.7) ; zygomatic width 11.1-13.1 (11.9) ; interorbital width 3.7-4.2 (3.9) ; diastema 6.4-8.1 (6.9) ; mandible 12.6-14.9 (13.5).

Distribution: *Mus saxicola* has so far been reported from Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Bihar in India and also from Nepal and Pakistan. Hence, the present record of this species from West Bengal not only constitutes its first report from that State but also shows that it occurs almost throughout India.

Remarks: The colour of specimens varies from slaty to dark brown and the fur is soft.

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