

A NEW UROMYS FROM THE KEI ISLANDS.

By

OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(British Museum, London).

Thanks to the kindness of Dr. DAMMERMAN I have had the opportunity of examining a number of small mammals collected in the Kei Islands by Mr. SIEBERS for the Buitenzorg Museum. These include examples of the following species: — *Pteropus keyensis*, PET., *Dobsonia viridis viridis*, HEUDE, *Hipposideros albanensis saevus*, K. AND., *Emballonura meeki clavium*, THOS., *Rattus neglectus*, JENT. and *ephippium*, JENT., *Petaurus breviceps papuanus*, THOS., *Echymipera rufescens*, P. & D. and a new species of *Uromys*.

This latter I would propose to call

Uromys siebersi, sp. n.

A large species of a colour less tawny than in *U. aruensis*.¹⁾ Size slightly less than in *aruensis*. General colour of a greyish more inclined to tawny than in the typically grey species such as *U. macropus*, more like *validus* and its allies, but far less tawny than in *aruensis*. Dorsal colour near "buffy brown", irregularly mixed with a warmer tone approaching "cinnamon brown", many of the hairs quite tawny. Undersurface thinly haired, sharply defined white, the hairs white to their bases. Head like back. Hands and feet dull whitish. Tail comparatively short, shorter than the head and body, scaly, naked, dull brown above, lighter below, the colours not sharply contrasted.

Skull about as in *U. aruensis*.

Dimensions of the pair, male and female, the first the type: — Head and body 280, 250; tail 234, 218; hind foot 50, 47; ear 26, 22. Skull of male, greatest length 63, condylo-incisive length 58, nasals 22.5; interorbital breadth 10.3; breadth between ridges on brain case 18; palatal foramina 7; upper molar series 12.

Hab. Kei Islands. Type from Gunung Daab, Great Kei.

Type. Adult male, B. M. No. 23. 4. 3. 12. Original number 158. Collected 17th April 1922 by natives. Presented by the Buitenzorg Museum to the British Museum.

This fine species is readily distinguishable by its short irregularly coloured tail and its greyish brown colour. Its nearest ally, geographically, is the Aru Island form, *U. aruensis*, which is of a strong tawny hue and has a longer tail.

¹⁾ When GRAY described *Uromys aruensis* he had two specimens, collected in the Aru Islands by Dr. A. B. MEYER. Of these I propose to select the old male, B. M. No. 72. 3. 5. 3. as a lectotype of the species.