

Bull. zool. Surv. India, 3 (3) : 267-268, 1981

NEW RECORD OF THE SHORT-TAILED BANDICOOT RAT, *NESOKIA INDICA INDICA* GRAY (RODENTIA : MURIDAE) FROM BIHAR

The short-tailed Bandicoot Rat, *Nesokia indica indica* Gray is distributed in India from Kumaun (U. P.), west into the arid region of the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan etc. (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, 1951 ; Ellerman, 1961 and Biswas and Tiwari, 1966). It is recently recorded from Nepal (Tamispur-Nawalpur, Parsi) by Agrawal and Chakraborty (1971) but hitherto unknown from Bihar and the remaining parts of India.

Recently one male and one female of this Bandicoot Rat were obtained on 28th May 1979 from Brahabatta, Ca. 12 km. S. E. of Mahuwa, Vaishali District, north of the Ganga river from burrows in a wheat field after harvesting. It was also seen in other crop fields, e.g., Moong (*Phaseolus aureus*) and Jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*).

This bandicoot rat is eaten by Moosahar caste in the villages. These people have adopted a very good method for the collection of this rat in the area. They generally take a long and thin stick and push it very deep in the burrow and allow to remain. After sometime the stick is drawn by the rat and as soon as the movement of the stick is seen, people dig the rat out of the burrow.

Measurements (in mm.) : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : The figures in parentheses are for female.

Head and body 161 (145) ; tail 98 (85) ; ear 20 (18) ; hindfoot 30 (29) ; occipitonasal length 37.2 (35) ; palatal length 22.5 (21.5) ; length of anterior palatal foramina 5.4 (5) ; Bulla (length) 8.2 (8.7) ; length of molar tooth row 7.8 (8) ; nasal length 13 (10.5) ; greatest zygomatic width 23.2 (22) ; least interorbital width 6.2 (6) ; length of diastema 12.2 (12) ; length of mandible 23.3 (24).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is grateful to Dr. T. N. Ananthkrishnan, Director, Zoological Survey of India and to Dr. P. D. Gupta, Deputy Director of this Regional Station for encouragement and facilities. He is also thankful to Dr. V. C. Agrawal, Calcutta for suggestions and information about the small mammals of Nepal.

REFERENCES

- AGRAWAL, V. C. and CHAKRABORTY, S. 1971. Notes on a collection of small mammals from Nepal, with the description of a new Mouse-hare (Lagomorpha : Ochotonidae). *Proc. zool. Soc., Calcutta*, 24 : 41-46.

- BISWAS, B. and TIWARI, K. K. 1966. Taxonomy and distribution of Indian rodents. *Indian Rodent Symposium*, Calcutta, pp. 9-45.
- ELLERMAN, J. R. 1961 (1963). *The fauna of India*, Mammalia, 3 (Rodentia) (2) (Murinae). Govt. of India, Delhi.
- ELLERMAN, J. R. and MORRISON-SCOTT, T. C. S. 1951. *Checklist of Palearctic and Indian Mammals*. Brit. Mus., London.

*Gangetic Plains Regional Station,
Zoological Survey of India,
Rajendra Nagar, Road No. 7,
Patna-800 016, (BIHAR).*

Y. P. SINHA
