

Bull. zool. Surv. India, 3 (3) : 271-272, 1981

REPORT ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE LITTLE INDIAN FIELD MOUSE, *MUS BOODUGA BOODUGA* (GRAY) IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

While examining a small collection of rodents from Arunachal Pradesh, present in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, a small grey-bellied mouse with bi-coloured tail was found. On closer examination it turned out to be an example of the Little Indian Field Mouse, *Mus booduga booduga* (Gray).

According to authoritative literature (Blyth, 1863; Sclater, 1891; Blanford, 1891; Hinton and Lindsay, 1926; Roonwal, 1950; Ellerman and Morrison-Scott, 1951; Ellerman, 1963; Biswas and Tiwari, 1969), *Mus booduga booduga* (Gray), occurs throughout India except in such northeastern hill states as Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Although Kurup (1968) mentioned its occurrence in Mishmi Hills, Arunachal Pradesh, I have not been able to trace any such record from the extant literature, nor could find any such specimen. It would appear, therefore, that Kurup (1968) had mentioned it erroneously, not based on any definite record. Hence the present material of this species from Tarajuli, Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh, would constitute its first authentic record from this area.

The details of the specimen are given below. The external measurements were taken

in the field by the collector which have been noted in millimetres.

Material : 1 ♂ ; Zoological Survey of India Registration Number 20576 ; in alcohol ; 25 January 1978 ; S. S. Saha collector.

Measurements ; External : Head and body 58.0 ; tail 50.0 ; hindfoot 15.0 ; ear 10.5.

Cranial : Occipitonasal 17.5 ; condylobasal 16.9 ; nasal 6.1 ; palate 8.7 ; bulla 3.4 ; molar tooth row 3.1 ; anterior palatal foramina 4.1 ; diastema 4.6.

REFERENCES

- BISWAS, B. and TIWARI, K. K. 1969. Taxonomy and distribution of Indian rodents. *Indian Rodent Symposium*, Calcutta, India ; 9-23.
- BLANFORD, W. T. 1891. *The fauna of British India*, Mammalia. Taylor and Francis, London.
- BLYTH, E. 1863. *Catalogue of the Mammalia in the Museum Asiatic Society*. Asiatic Society Bengal, Calcutta.
- ELLERMAN, J. R. 1963. *The fauna of India*, Mammalia, 3 (Rodentia). Govt. of India, Delhi.

- ELLERMAN, J. R. and MORRISON-SCOTT, T. C. S. 1951. *A Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian mammals*. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.), London.
- HINTON, M. A. C. and LINDSAY, H. M. 1926. Bombay Natural History Society's Mammal Survey of India, Burma and Ceylon. Report No. 41 (Assam and Mishmi Hills). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, **31** : 383-403.
- KURUP, G. U. 1968. Mammals of Assam and adjoining areas. 2. A distributional list. *Proc. zool. Soc., Calcutta*, **21** : 79-99.
- ROONWAL, M. L. 1950. Contributions to the fauna of Manipur State, Assam. Part III. Mammals, with special reference to the family Muridae (Order Rodentia). *Rec. Indian Mus.*, **47** : 1-64.
- SCLATER, W. L. 1891. *Catalogue of Mammalia in the Indian Museum*, 2. Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Zoological Survey of India,
Calcutta

AJOY KUMAR MANDAL
