

## SOME NEW RECORDS OF RODENTS FROM MIZORAM, INDIA

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### INTRODUCTION

Faunistic surveys were conducted in Mizoram, specially for mammals during December, 1993 - January, 1994; March - May, 1995; and January, 1997 by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India. The collections thus obtained contain several species of rodents, of which, seven, namely, *Callosciurus erythraeus erythrogaster* (Blyth), *Callosciurus pygerythrus janetta* (Thomas), *Tamiops macclelandi macclelandi* (Horsfield), *Mus pahari* Thomas, *Niviventer niviventer mentosus* (Thomas), *Rattus nitidus obsoletus* Hinton, *Hystrix brachyura subcristata* Swinhoe were found to be unrecorded from Mizoram (Agrawal 1980, Corbet and Hill 1992, Das *et al.* 1995, Ellerman 1961, Roonwal 1950, Wilson and Reeder 1993). Since the finalisation of a detailed faunal account of mammals of Mizoram will take some more time, it was thought worthwhile to publish the new distributional records of these rodents hereunder.

External measurements have been taken in the field and the skull-measurements in the laboratory. All measurements are in millimetres and have been taken following standard methods.

Following is a list of abbreviations used for various measurements :

<i>apf</i>	=	anterior palatal foramina;
<i>b</i>	=	length of bulla;
<i>cb</i>	=	condylobasal length;
<i>d</i>	=	length of diastema;
<i>E</i>	=	length of ear;
<i>H&amp;B</i>	=	length of head and body;
<i>Hf</i>	=	length of hindfoot;
<i>iw</i>	=	least interorbital width;
<i>ml</i>	=	mandibular length;
<i>mtr</i>	=	length of maxillary tooth-row;
<i>n</i>	=	length of nasal;
<i>on</i>	=	occipitonasal length;
<i>orb</i>	=	length of orbit;
<i>p</i>	=	palatal length;

*Tl* = length of tail;  
*zw* = zygomatic width.

### SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order : RODENTIA

Family : SCIURIDAE

*Callosciurus erythraeus erythrogaster* (Blyth, 1842)

Pallas's Squirrel

1842. *Sciurus erythrogaster* Blyth, *J. Asist. Soc. Beng.*, 11 : 970 (Manipur).

*Material examined* : Mizoram : Lunglei district : 1 ♂, Sairep (c 1500 m), coll. T. P. Bhattacharyya, 20 April, 1995.

*Measurements* : External : 1 ♂ : H&B 247.0; Tl 225.0; Hf 53.0; E 18.0. Cranial : 1 ♂ : *on* 55.5; *cb* 50.1; *n* 17.2; *p* 26.4; *iw* 18.8; *mtr* 11.0; *b* 11.0; *orb* 16.9; *ml* 30.7.

*Distribution* : *Callosciurus erythraeus erythrogaster* is known within the Indian limits from Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The present specimen constitutes the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

*Callosciurus pygerythrus janetta* (Thomas, 1914)

Irrawaddy Squirrel

1914. *Sciurus pygerythrus janetta* Thomas, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 23 : 203 (Mandalay, 200 ft., Myanmar).

*Material examined* : Mizoram : Lunglei district : 1 ♂, Sairep (c 1500 m), coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya, 22 April, 1995.

*Measurements* : External : 1 ♂ : H&B 140.0; Tl 113.0; Hf 43.0; E 17.5. Cranial : 1 ♂ : *on* 41.5; *cb* 35.7; *n* 11.5; *p* 20.0; *mtr* 8.2; *b* 7.9; *iw* 12.5; *orb* 13.2; *ml* 24.0.

*Distribution* : *Callosciurus pygerythrus janetta* is not known within the Indian limits. Hence, the present specimen constitutes the first record of this form from India. It is found in Myanmar.

*Tamiops macclellandi macclellandi* (Horsfield, 1839)

Himalayan Striped Squirrel

1839. *Sciurus macclellandi* Horsfield, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* : 152 (Assam, India).

*Material examined* : Mizoram : Lunglei district : 1 ♀, Sairep (c 1500 m), coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya, 20 April, 1995.

*Measurements* : External : 1 ♀ : H&B 121.0; Tl 99.0; Hf 25.5; E 12.0. Cranial : 1 ♀ : *on* 32.1; *cb* 28.4; *n* 9.5; *p* 14.5; *mtr* 5.5; *b* 5.9; *zw* 20.0; *iw* 11.7; *orb* 10.0; *ml* 17.7.

**Distribution** : *Tamiops macclellandi macclellandi* is known within the Indian limits from Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur. The present specimen constitutes the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

Family : MURIDAE  
*Mus pahari* Thomas, 1916  
Sikkim Mouse

1916. *Mus pahari* Thomas, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 24 : 415 (Batasia, Sikkim, 6000 ft., India).

**Material examined** : Mizoram : Aizawl district : 1 ♂, Tuikual Duty Post (c 850 m), c 10 km N of North Khawbung, coll. S.S. Saha, 17 December, 1993. Lunglei district : 1 ♂, 3 ♀, Sairep (c 1500 m), 15 & 16 January, 1997; 1 ♀, Lungsen (c 650 m), 22 January, 1997; coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya.

**Measurements** : External : 2 ♂ : H&B 102.0, 89.0; Tl 92.0, 88.0; Hf 20.0, 20.0; E 15.0, 15.0; 2 ♀ : H&B 93.0, 94.0; Tl 92.0, 101.0; Hf 19.0, 20.0; E 15.0, 15.5. Cranial : 2 ♂ : *on* 26.0, 25.4; *cb* 24.3, 24.1; *n* 10.0, 9.4; *p* 13.4, 12.9; *mtr* 4.1, 4.1; *b* 3.8, 4.0; *apf* 4.9, 4.7; *zw* 13.3, 11.9; *d* 7.5, 7.2; *ml* 14.6, 14.1. 2 ♀ : *on* 25.8, 25.9; *cb* 24.8, 24.5; *n* 10.0, 10.0; *p* 13.2, 12.5; *mtr* 4.4, 3.6; *b* 3.9, 4.0; *apf* 5.1, 4.9; *zw* 12.5, 12.3; *d* 7.2, 7.0; *ml* 14.3, 13.7.

**Distribution** : Within the Indian limits, *Mus pahari* is reported from Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland. The present specimens, thus, constitute the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

*Niviventer niviventer mentosus* (Thomas, 1916)  
White-bellied Rat

1916. *Rattus mentosus* Thomas, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 24 : 643 (Hkamti, c 152 m, Upper Chindwin, Myanmar).

**Material examined** : Mizoram : Chintuipui district : 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Ngengpui (c 200m), coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya, 8-11 April, 1995.

**Measurements** : External : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : H&B 155.0, 148.0; Tl 195.0, 169.0; Hf 32.0, 28.5; E 22.0, 21.5. Cranial : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : *on* 40.5, 39.2; *cb* 37.7, 36.8; *n* 15.9, 15.5; *p* 19.9, 19.0; *mtr* 6.0, 5.8; *b* 5.0, 5.1; *apf* 7.0, 6.6; *zw* 17.3, 17.4; *d* 10.7, 10.2; *ml* 20.5, 17.7.

**Distribution** : *Niviventer niviventer mentosus* is known from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur in India. Hence, the present specimens constitute the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

*Rattus nitidus obsoletus* Hinton, 1919  
Himalayan Rat

1919. *Rattus nitidus obsoletus* Hinton, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 26 : 415 (50 miles W of kindat, c. 1524m, Chin Hills, Myanmar).

*Material examined* : Mizoram : Aizwal district : 2 ♂, Aizawl Circuit House, coll. Ajoy Kumar Mandal, 8 December, 1993. Chintuipui district : 1 ♂, Ngengpui (c 200m), coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya, 12 April, 1995. Lunglei district : 1 ♂, 3km SW of Zobawk, coll. T.P. Bhattacharyya, 20 January, 1997.

*Measurements* : External : 2 ♂ : H&B 150.0, 178.0; Tl 120.0, 165.0; Hf 31.5, 35.0; E 19.0, 19.0. Cranial : 2 ♂ : *on* 39.2, 42.5; *cb* 36.4, 40.2; *n* 16.0, 17.0; *p* 21.1, 23.3; *mtr* 6.5, 6.8; *b* 5.8, 6.6; *apf* 6.5, 7.6; *zw* 18.0, 18.7; *d* 10.0, 12.0; *ml* 20.0, 21.4.

*Distribution* : *Rattus nitidus obsoletus* is known within Indian limits from Manipur (Roonwal 1950). Hence, the present specimens constitute the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

#### Family HYSTRICIDAE

#### *Hystrix brachyura subcristata* Swinhoe, 1870

#### Crestless Himalayan Porcupine

1870. *Hystrix subcristata* Swinhoe, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 638 (Foochow, Fukien, South-eastern China).

*Material examined* : Mizoram : Aizwal district : One skull (without lower jaw), 5 km N of Khawbung, coll. S.S. Saha, 17 December, 1993.

*Measurements* : External : Nil. Cranial : *on* 126.6; *cb* 123.7; *n* 68.0; *p* 65.0; *mtr* 25.8; *b* 17.3; *apf* 5.5; *zw* 66.8; *iw* 43.7; *d* 35.0.

*Distribution* : Within the Indian limits, *Hystrix brachyura subcristata* is reported from Nagaland, Manipur. The present specimen, thus, constitutes the first authentic record of this species from Mizoram.

#### SUMMARY

*Callosciurus erythreus erythrogaster*, *Callosciurus pygerythrus janetta*, *Tamiops maccllellandi maccllellandi*, *Mus pahari*, *Niviventer niviventer mentosus*, *Rattus nitidus obsoletus*, *Hystrix brachyura subcristata* have been recorded for the first time from Mizoram, India. Their collection locality, measurements, distribution in India have been appended.

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