

Article XX.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
GEOMYS FROM COSTA RICA.

By J. A. ALLEN.

A specimen of *Geomys*, collected at Santa Clara, Costa Rica, by Mr. George K. Cherrie, has recently been received from that gentleman for identification, which on examination appears to be undescribed. It belongs to the *G. hispidus* section of the group, but differs from it markedly in size, coloration and in the character of the pelage. It may be described as follows :

Geomys cherriei,¹ sp. nov.

Above everywhere blackish chocolate brown, except a large patch of pure white on the crown, subtriangular in shape, 30 mm. in length and 6 to 17 mm. in breadth, broadest behind ; inner surface of fore and hind limbs, throat and breast, dusky grayish ; rest of lower surface pale grayish buff. Tail (except extreme basal portion), and upper surface of both fore and hind feet naked, apparently reddish in life.

Measurements (approximate from dried skin) : Total length, 275 mm. ; head and body, 195 ; tail, 80 (naked portion, 65) ; hind foot, 40 ; middle claw of same, 5 ; fore foot, 34 ; middle claw of same (arc of curve), 15.

Skull, total length, 60 ; basal length (posterior border of occipital condyle to posterior base of incisors), 47 ; zygomatic breadth, 34 ; occipital breadth, 30 ; length of nasals, 20 ; lower jaw (posterior border of condyle to posterior surface of incisor), 38 ; height at coronoid process, 17.

Type, No. 664, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Santa Clara, Costa Rica, October, 1892 ; George K. Cherrie.

The specimen described above is evidently about full grown, but the sutures of the skull indicate a rather young animal. The

¹ Named for Mr. George K. Cherrie, Acting-Curator of Birds and Mammals, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, the discoverer of the species, and to whose kindness I am greatly indebted for mammalogical material from Costa Rica.

skull is of the heavy, short, broad type of *G. hispidus*,¹ with the malar greatly expanded. The coloration of the animal, however, is much darker, especially below; the pelage is rather soft and not hispid, and the tail is relatively much longer than in *hispidus*. The white patch on the crown is possibly albinism, but if normal is a striking feature.

In addition to the differences in external characters and in size, *G. cherriei* differs from *G. hispidus* in several important cranial details, notably in respect to the shape and size of interparietal bone, which in *G. hispidus* is broad and short (much broader than long), and gently convex in front, while in *G. cherriei* it is narrow, subtriangular, and nearly twice as long as broad.

Possibly this species may need comparison with *Geomys heterodurus* Peters, from Irazú, Costa Rica; but Alston says (Biol. Cent. Am., Mam., p. 160) that Peters's type "proves identical with Mexican specimens."

¹ I am indebted to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, U. S. Department of Agriculture, for a specimen of *G. hispidus* for comparison in the present connection. Dr. Merriam writes me that this specimen "may be regarded as a *duplicate* type [of *G. hispidus*], since it was collected at a point probably not more than six miles from the exact spot where the original type was obtained."