

Article XIV.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
OPOSSUM FROM THE ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTE-
PEC, MEXICO.

By J. A. ALLEN.

Didelphis (Micoureus) canescens, sp. nov.

Didelphys (Micoureus) murina ALLEN, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. III, p. 190, Dec. 1890. (Not *D. murina* LINN.)

Smaller even than *D. (M.) murina*, with the general coloration of *D. (M.) grisea*. Pelage short, close, thick. Tail furred at the base as in *D. murina*.

Above ashy brown, in some specimens with a slight rufescent tinge. Below white, tinged with pale yellow. A broad blackish eye-ring, produced forward nearly to the nose; between the eyes, sides of the face and sides of the neck yellowish gray, much lighter than the back. Ears broad, rounded, naked, pale brown in the dried skin, probably more or less yellowish in life. Tail slightly longer than head and body, the basal half-inch heavily furred, the rest naked, pale brown, uniform or varied with spots of flesh-color. Feet grayish or yellowish white, thinly haired on the upper surface.

Measurements of three males and two females (approximate, from skins): Three males, total length, 283 (266–288) mm.; head and body, 137 (134–138); tail, 146 (142–150); hind foot, 65 (60–70); ear, about 65. Two females, total length, 256 (249–268); head and body, 118 (114–126); tail, 138 (134–142); hind foot, about 60; ear, about 60.

The skull is much smaller than in *D. murina*, with the nasals less expanded posteriorly, the small posterior palatal vacuities absent, and the triangular projecting ledges of the interorbital region much more strongly developed, quite as much so as in *D. cinerea*. An average adult male skull measures as follows: total length, 35.5; basal length (front edge of premaxillaries to posterior border of occipital condyle), 33.8; greatest zygomatic breadth, 20.8; tip to tip of postorbital processes, 10.4; length of nasals, 16.3; from anterior border of premaxillaries to posterior border of palatal floor, 18.8; length of lower jaw (incisive border to posterior border of condyle), 26; height at condyle, 7.6; height at coronoid process, 11.7.

Type, No. ~~3443~~¹¹¹¹, ♂ ad., Santo Domingo de Guzman, Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, April 30, 1890, coll. Dr. A. C. Buller.

This species is based on a series of three adult males, two adult females, and a full-grown but rather young male, collected

by Dr. A. C. Buller at Santo Domingo de Guzman, Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, April 25–May 2, 1890, and formerly referred by me (l. c.) provisionally and with much doubt to *D. murina*, in the absence of specimens of *D. murina* for comparison. The recent acquisition of a large series of that species shows at once that they are widely different, both externally and in cranial characters, as already indicated. It now seems strange that a species so strongly marked should so long have escaped observation.

The only species with which *D. canescens* apparently needs comparison is *D. waterhousei* Tomes,¹ from Galaquiza, Ecuador, judging from Tomes's description; but Mr. Thomas (Cat. Marsup. and Monotrem., p. 342), after an examination of the type, refers this species to *D. cinerea*. Mr. Thomas records the type (l. c., p. 343) as an immature skin and skull; but Mr. Tomes described the species from an adult female, *which had young in her pouch* (cf. P. Z. S., 1860, p. 60), and later (cf. P. Z. S., 1860, p. 217) gives a detailed description of another specimen, likewise an adult female. Besides the marked discrepancies in size and proportions between Tomes's measurements and those given by Thomas for *D. cinerea*, and in the length of the basal furred portion of the tail, Mr. Tomes states that *D. waterhousei* is a *pouched* species, while Mr. Thomas says of *D. cinerea*, "*pouch absent.*"

D. canescens, while resembling *D. cinerea* very much in coloration, is apparently fully one-third smaller, with a relatively considerably shorter tail, furred only for about the basal half-inch. While all of the six specimens are full-grown, three of them are obviously quite old.

¹ P. Z. S., 1860, pp. 58, 217 and 303 (fig. of skull), pl. lxxvi (animal).