

Article IV.—NOTE ON MACROGEOMYS CHERRIEI
(ALLEN).

By J. A. ALLEN.

PLATE I.

In December, 1893 (this Bulletin, V, p. 337) I described as new a form of *Geomys* from Costa Rica, under the name *Geomys cherriei*, the description being based on a single immature specimen. The species was redescribed from the same specimen and the skull figured by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in his 'Monographic Revision of the Pocket Gophers' (North Am. Fauna, No. 8, p. 194, Pl. xv, Fig. 1, Jan., 1895), under the name *Macrogeomys cherriei* (Allen). Through the kindness of Señor Anastasio Alfaro, Director of the Costa Rica National Museum, I have before me five additional specimens, four of which are fully adult, and the other about half grown. The six specimens differ very little in coloration, all being dark sooty or plumbeous brown above and light, soiled grayish white below, slightly darker or more ashy gray over the pectoral region, the line of demarkation between the upper and lower surfaces being well defined. They all possess the prominent squarish or subtriangular white patch on the top of the head noted in the type, and thought possibly due to albinism. It proves, however, to be a normal and striking feature of the coloration. As regards external characters, there is nothing further to add to the original description, the skins being unfortunately not in condition to admit of satisfactory measurement. Señor Alfaro (in litt. May 31, 1895) says, however, that an adult male measures: head and body, 230 mm.; tail, 90; total length, 320. In the adults the length of the hind foot averages about 45 mm.

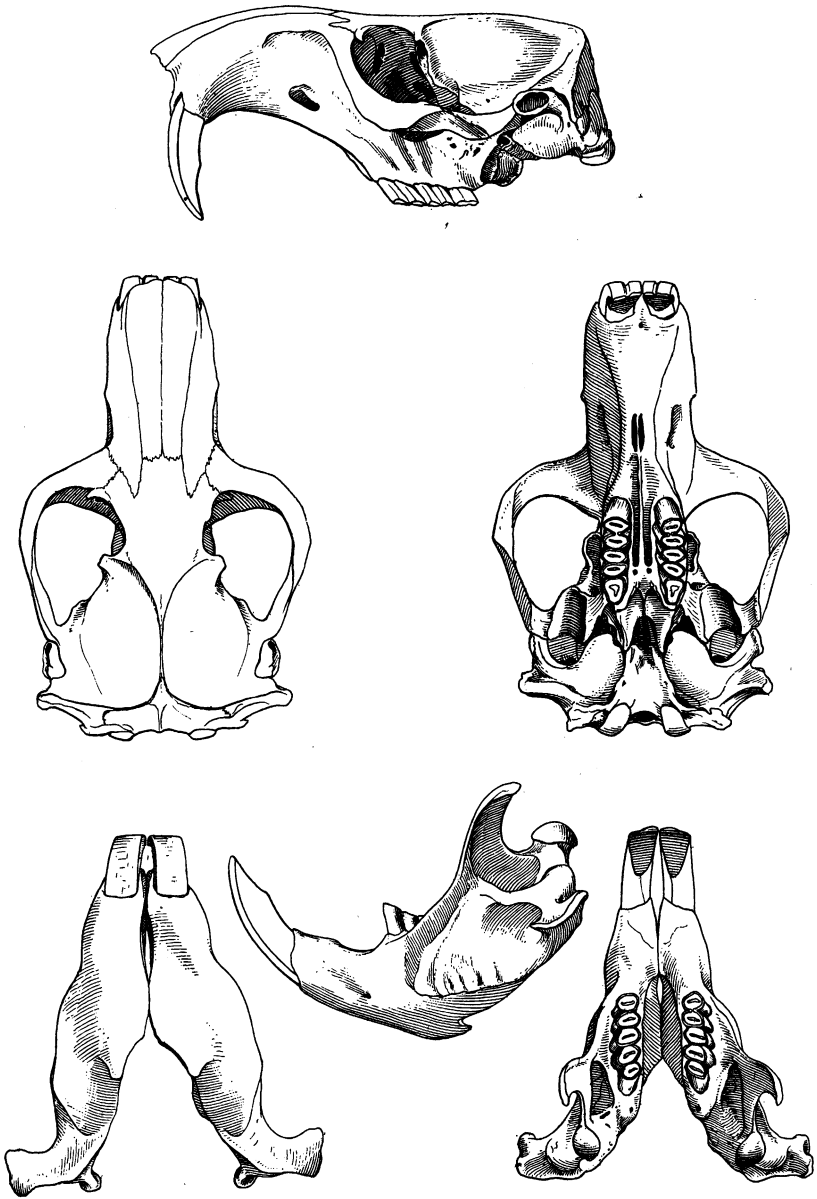
An adult male skull measures as follows: Total length (condyle to front base of incisors), 59 mm.; zygomatic breadth, 39; greatest breadth across squamosals, 33.5; interorbital breadth, 10; breadth of muzzle at root of zygoma, 13.5; length of mandible (without incisors), 14; greatest breadth of mandible at the

angular processes, 37.5 ; length of upper molar series (crown surface), 11. Ratio of zygomatic breadth to total length, 66.

From Señor Alfaro I learn that all of these specimens, including the type of the species, were taken on his father's plantation 'Santa Clara,' in the small town of Jiménez, on the Atlantic slope, at an altitude of only 700 feet above the sea. He also writes that *Geomys heterodus* Peters, which he describes as a very different animal from *M. cherriei*, is found only at an elevation of 6000 to 7000 feet. *M. cherriei* is very abundant about Jiménez, and very destructive to the coffee plantations. Seventy were taken in a single month on his father's estate.

The Museum is indebted to Señor Alfaro for several specimens of this interesting species, the type of which (Am. Mus. No. $\frac{10768}{9087}$) is also now the property of the Museum.

The accompanying figures (Pl. I) represent the skull of an adult male (Am. Mus. No. $\frac{10770}{9089}$), natural size. The specimen was taken at Jiménez, Costa Rica, in May, 1895, and forms one of the series referred to above.



MACROGEOMYS CHERRIEI (*Allen*).

Figures all natural size.

