

A NEW RAT FROM JAVA.

By

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(Soekaboemi, Java).

Rattus canus sodyi, subsp. n.

Type:—Adult female (skin and skull), coll. M. BARTELS Jr. no. 580, S.W. slopes of Mts Pangrango-Gede (W. Java), 1000 m, Oct. 18th, 1933, Author leg. Paratype female (no. 1080) and do male (no. 1269) in the Buitenzorg Museum collection.

Diagnosis:—Size about equal to that of *R. canus malaisia* KLOSS¹⁾ from the Malay Peninsula (which is much smaller than typical *canus* (MILLER)). Differs from *R. c. malaisia* by the following characters: hindfoot larger; nail of the hallux still more reduced, very short and flat; tail much longer, *unicolourous*; naked area on belly absent; fur longer; upperparts less greyish, the grey rather strongly intermingled with yellowish; alatal foramina larger and reaching farther backwards; bullae larger and much more inflated.



Right hallux
of *Rattus*
canus sodyi
subsp. n.
× 3.

Fur:—Fairly soft and dense. Above composed of three elements: a) soft hairs, b) a certain number of slender spines and c) long hair-bristles, the latter being longest and most numerous on the back and hind-back.

Colour:—Base of the pelage dark ashy on the back, becoming lighter towards the sides, distal ends of the hairs yellowish, the general colour impression of the upperparts thus produced being a mingling of grey and yellowish. Spines whitish with blackish brown tips, hair-bristles blackish brown throughout on the back, many of them tipped with whitish and showing light bases on the flanks. General colour of flanks and sides of limbs distinctly paler than the back, more greyish. A narrow ring around the eye blackish brown. Undersurface pure chalk-white, sharply margined; hairs white throughout. The white of the underparts separated from the feet and the base of the tail by a dark ashy band. Hands and feet clad with greyish brown and whitish hairs, the latter principally on the outer sides; the nails, except that of the hallux, overhung by long silvery white hairs. Tail dark greyish brown throughout.

Ringings of the tail:—9 to the centimetre in the middle.

Mammular formula:—2 + 2 = 8.

¹⁾ To the kindness of Mr. F. N. CHASEN of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, who was the first to recognize the close relationship of our new rat to *R. c. malaisia*, we owe the opportunity of examining a specimen of the latter form.

Measurements and weight:—The measurements (in mm) of 9 adult specimens and the weight (in g) of 5 specimens are given below ¹⁾.

No.	Coll. M. BARTELS Jr. Sex	Head and body	Tail	Ear	Hindfoot	Skull							Weight	Remarks
						Greatest length	Basal length	Zygomatic breadth	Median length nasals	Greatest breadth combined nasals	Palatal foramina	Upper molar row		
580	♀	189	260.5	23	37.5	43.8	39.9	22.5	14.6	4.6	8.7	8	188	Mamm. much devel. Type
597	♂	178	271	21.5	38	42.7	38.7	20.9	14.2	4.7	8.1	7.8	175	Test. 17 mm
1080	♀	190	262.5	22.5	39	44.4	41.7	22.5	15.2	4.6	8.1	7.6	—	Mamm. devel.
1269	♂	182	279	22	39	43.5	39.4	21.3	14.7	4.7	7.9	7.9	176	Test. 19.5 mm
1333	♂	182	285.5	22	39.5	42.9	38.6	20.4	14.3	4.4	8.2	7.7	—	Test. 21.5 mm
1339	♂	209.5	305	24.5	43.5	46.9	43.4	22.9	16.4	4.8	9.3	8.5	230	Test. 24 mm Teeth worn
1341	♀	190.5	286	22.5	39.5	44.8	41.2	22.2	14.9	4.8	8.5	7.9	204	Mamm. much devel. Teeth slightly worn
1786	♂	191	269.5	23	40	44.2	39.8	21.8	14.2	4.4	8.5	8.1	—	Test. large
1787	♂	205.5	290.5	23.5	41.5	45.7	41.9	21.8	15.6	4.7	8.1	7.9	—	Test. large

(The measurements of the type of *R. c. malaisia*, an adult male (as given by KLOSS in Bull. Raffles Mus., 5, 1931, p. 107), are: Head and body 190; tail 215; ear 24; hindfoot 35; skull, greatest length 43.9; basal length 39.2; zygom. breadth 23.5; med. length of nasals 15; greatest breadth comb. nasals 5.9; palat. foram. 6; upper mol. row 8.1 mm).

Specimens examined:—17 (ad. and juv.), all from the type-locality.

Habits:—The majority of the specimens was caught from dead and more or less decaying big bamboo-stems in the forest, into which the rats had gnawed little entrance-holes measuring about 3-4 cm in diameter. Such holes had also been gnawed in the partitions between the internodia. A nest made of dry leaves etc. containing four young rats was found in such a situation on January 24th, 1935. The peculiar hallux and short foot showing well-developed pads probably indicate arboreal or semi-arboreal habits.

Name:—I have the pleasure of naming this new form, which constitutes an interesting new addition to the Javan mammalian fauna, after Mr. H. J. V. SODY, who has so largely contributed to our present knowledge of the Javan *Muridae*.

¹⁾ No. 1786 was measured after having been preserved in alcohol; all the others were measured in a fresh state. The head-and-body-length was measured from the tip of the nose to the hind-border of the thigh-muscles at the base of the tail.