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A REIDENTIFICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN MURIDAE IN THE LEIDEN MUSEUM

LISTED BY F. A. JENTINK IN 1887 AND 1888

by

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A number of Australian rodent specimens are listed by Jentink (1887; 1888) in two catalogues of the mammals in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands. The 1887 catalogue deals with the osteological material; in it, thirteen Australian rodent skulls are recorded. The 1888 catalogue contains the mounted and spirit specimens; the Australian rodents are represented here by thirty-three mounted specimens, of which ten have the skulls listed in the 1887 catalogue, and three spirit specimens with the skulls not extracted. The mode of preservation of a further specimen, now a mounted skin, is not indicated. It too had the skull in place; therefore, there are three skulls for which no skins are listed.

Many of these specimens were identified by Jentink on external characters alone, while his identifications were made at a time when the diversity of the Australian rodent fauna was not fully appreciated. Again, specimens are listed for *Conilurus albipes* (Lichtenstein) and topotypical *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould), two poorly known forms which are apparently now extinct and for which little material is preserved in collections elsewhere; if their identities have been correctly recorded by Jentink, a study of his specimens would provide additional information about these forms. For such reasons, confirmation of the accuracy of Jentink's identifications is desirable.

Jentink's specimens were examined by me at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden in January, 1966 and are reidentified below. The skins and skulls of most individuals were available for examination; however, the skulls are extensively damaged, with the exception of those of the three

spirit specimens¹⁾, and have most or all of the posterior half of the cranium missing while the skins have suffered to a greater or lesser extent from exposure to light or immersion in alcohol and the ears and tails are not always complete. Because of poor preservation the genus alone has been determined for some specimens. Those of Jentink's individuals for which the skin and skull were not both seen, are indicated; one specimen has been discussed by subsequent authors and this too is noted. Other specimens are commented upon and some synonyms cited. The British Museum (Natural History) specimens mentioned were examined and identified by me in 1965, and those in the Western Australian Museum, in 1963-1964.

Jentink's text is given in quotation marks. This is followed by the correct name of the individual, its present registration number and, when appropriate, further information.

Part of the material was obtained from dealers, viz., A. Frank, J. Gould and C. L. Salmin, who are indicated by Jentink as M. Frank, M. Gould and M. Salmien [sic], the letter M standing for "Monsieur".

MATERIAL LISTED BY JENTINK IN HIS 1888 CATALOGUE

Page 47:

"Hydromys chrysogaster Geoffroy."

"a. Femelle adulte montée. Tasmanie. Londres, 1834. (Cr. a du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20340.

"b. Mâle adulte monté. Tasmanie." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20341 (skull still in skin).

"c. Individu adulte monté. Tasmanie, 1821." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20342 (skull still in skin).

"Hydromys leucogaster Geoffroy."

"a. Individu adulte monté. Environs de Sydney, 2 Janvier 1861. Du Musée de Sydney." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804 a senior subjective synonym of *Hydromys leucogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20343 (skull still in skin).

"b. Individu adulte monté. Australie, Port Essington." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20344 (skull removed from skin).

"c. Mâle adulte monté. De l'ancien Cabinet à Leyde, 1821." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20345 (the skull has been removed from the skin and cannot be traced).

1) The skulls of specimens nos. 20344, 20347-20353, 20355-20367, and 20376 were removed from the skins between June 1965 and January 1966.

Page 67:

“Mus lineolatus Gould.”

“a. Individu adulte monté. Tasmanie. De M. Frank. (Cr. *a* du Cat. Ost.)” — Name: *Pseudomys higginsii* (Trouessart, 1897). Reg. no. 20346.

“b. Individu adulte monté. Australie, Plains of Darting. Du voyage de M. Gould.” — Name: *Pseudomys australis* Gray, 1832, a senior subjective synonym of *Mus lineolatus* Gould, 1845. Reg. no. 20347 (skull removed from skin). Presumably, Darting is an error for Darling.

“c. Jeune individu monté. Australie. De M. Frank, 1857.” — Name: *Rattus* sp. Reg. no. 20348 (skull removed from skin).

“Mus albocinereus Gould.”

“a. Individu adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Moores-river.” — Name: *Pseudomys gouldii* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. no. 20349 (skull removed from skin). Iredale & Troughton (1934: 77) restrict *Pseudomys gouldii* (Waterhouse) to New South Wales; however, I believe that it includes *Pseudomys rawlinnae* Troughton, 1932, which was named for specimens from southwestern Australia. Gould (1855: pl. 19 text) reports *Pseudomys gouldii* from the neighbourhood of Moore river, Western Australia; specimens of it from the Victoria plains, through which the Moore river flows, are in the British Museum (Natural History) Gould Collection (nos. 1844.2.15.34 and 1844.9.30.12-13).

“Mus adelaidensis Gould.”

“a. Individu adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Victoria-plains.” — Name: *Pseudomys gouldii* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. no. 20350 (skull removed from skin).

“b. Jeune individu monté. Australie méridionale. De M. Frank, 1864.” — Name: *Mus musculus* Linnaeus, 1758, a senior subjective synonym of *Mus adelaidensis* Gray, 1841 (authority Gray, 1843: 111; the whereabouts of Gray's original material of *M. adelaidensis* is unknown). Reg. no. 20351 (skull removed from skin). Jentink is incorrect in attributing the name *Mus adelaidensis* to Gould and not to Gray.

“Mus gracilicaudatus Gould.”

“a. Individu adulte monté. Australie, Moores-river.” — Name: *Pseudomys albocinereus* (Gould, 1845). Reg. no. 20352 (skull removed from skin).

“b. Individu adulte monté. Australie, Victoria-plains.” — Name: *Pseu-*

domys albocinereus (Gould, 1845). Reg. no. 20353 (skull removed from skin).

“Mus fuscipes Waterhouse.”

“*a.* Individu adulte monté, un des types de l'espèce. Australie, Port Albany. Du voyage du Beagle. (Cr. *a* du Cat. Ost.)” — Name: *Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. no. 20354. This specimen is discussed by Taylor & Horner (1967: 3).

“*b.* Individu adulte monté. Australie, King George Sound.” — Name: *Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. no. 20355 (skull removed from skin).

“*c.* Individu adulte monté. Australie. De M. Frank.” — Name: *Rattus* sp. (?*Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839)). Reg. no. 20356 (skull removed from skin). A note with the specimen gives the locality as southern Australia.

“*d, e.* Individus adultes montés. Australie.” — Name of specimen *d*: *Rattus* sp. (?*Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839)). Reg. no. 20357 (skull removed from skin). Name of specimen *e*: *Rattus lutreolus* (Gray, 1841). Reg. no. 20358 (skull removed from skin).

“*f, g.* (alc.) Individus adultes. Australie. De M. Salmien de Hambourg, 1869.” — Name: *Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. nos. 20359 and 20360, respectively (males; skulls removed from skins).

“Mus gouldii Waterhouse.”

“*a, b.* Individus adultes et semi-adultes montés. Australie, Victoria-plains.” — Name of specimen *a*: *Rattus tunneyi* (Thomas, 1904). Reg. no. 20361 (skull removed from skin). This species which is believed by me to include *Rattus woodwardi* (Thomas, 1908) and *Rattus culmorum* (Thomas & Dollman, 1909), has not previously been recorded from south-western Australia. Other modern specimens of *Rattus tunneyi* from the Victoria plains (nos. 1844.2.15.29-31 and 1844.7.9.17) and one from the Swan River, also in south-western Australia (no. 1843.8.21.1), are in the British Museum (Natural History); cranial remains of it from superficial bone deposits in Hasting's Cave, four miles inland from Jurien Bay (no. 1963.9.5) and a cave in Boomerang Gorge, Yanchep (no. 1963.5.1), two further south-western Australian localities, are in the Western Australian Museum. — Name of specimen *b*: *Pseudomys nanus* (Gould, 1858). Reg. no. 20362 (skull removed from skin).

“*c.* Individu à-peu-près adulte. Australie. Des collections de M. Gould.” — Name: *Rattus* sp. (?*Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839)). Reg. no. 20363 (skull removed from skin).

Page 68 (continued "*Mus gouldii* Waterhouse."):

"*d.* Individu adulte monté. Australie. De M. Frank." — Name: *Rattus* sp. Reg. no. 20364 (skull removed from skin).

"*e.* Individu à-peu-près adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Perth-lakes." — Name: *Rattus tunneyi* (Thomas, 1904). Reg. no. 20365 (skull removed from skin).

"*f.* Jeune individu monté. Australie occidentale. De M. Frank, 1864." — Name: *Pseudomys nanus* (Gould, 1858). Reg. no. 20366 (skull removed from skin).

"*g.* Très jeune individu monté. Australie. New-South-Wales. Du Musée de Sydney, 1864." — The rodent labelled *Mus gouldii g* does not belong in the Muridae; therefore, it apparently was collected from outside Australia. Reg. no. 20367 (skull removed from skin).

Page 74:

"*Hapalotis albipes* Lichtenstein."

"*a.* Individu adulte monté. Tasmanie. (Cr. *a* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Conilurus albipes* (Lichtenstein, 1829). Reg. no. 20368. The only records of *Conilurus albipes* from Tasmania are contained in Jentink's two catalogues. Tasmanian specimens of this species are not known by me to be preserved in collections elsewhere, or do I know of its occurrence in Tasmanian bone deposits and Jentink's locality for *Conilurus albipes* requires confirmation.

"*Hapalotis mitchellii* Gray."

"*a, b.* Femelles adultes montées. Australie occidentale. (Crs. *a* et *b* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Notomys mitchellii* (Ogilby, 1838). Reg. nos. 20369 and 20370, respectively. Jentink is incorrect in attributing the name *Hapalotis mitchellii* to Gray and not to Ogilby.

"*c.* Individu adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Williams-river. *H. gouldii*. (Cr. *c* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Notomys mitchellii* (Ogilby, 1838). Reg. no. 20371. Some authors have erroneously used the name *Hapalotis gouldii* Gray, 1843, a replacement name for *Mus hirsutus* Gould, 1842, for Western Australian specimens of *Notomys mitchellii*. The species called *Hapalotis gouldii* by Gray in 1843 belongs in *Mesembriomys* and not in *Notomys*.

"*d.* Individu adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Victoria-plains." — Name: *Notomys mitchellii* (Ogilby, 1838). Reg. no. 20372. The skull has been removed from the skin and cannot be traced. An unlabelled broken skull

of *Notomys mitchellii* (Reg. no. 20380) found with Jentink's specimens might belong to this individual.

"Hapalotis longicaudatus Gould."

"*a*. Individu adulte monté. Australie, Victoria-plains, Moores-river. (Cr. *a* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20373.

"*b*. Individu adulte monté. Moores-river. (Cr. *b* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20374.

"*c*. Individu adulte monté. Australie. (Cr. *c* du Cat. Ost.)" — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20375.

Page 255:

"Mus alexandrinus Geoffroy."

"*gg*. (alc.) Femelle adulte. Australie. De M. Salmien à Hambourg, 1869." — Name: *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus, 1758), a senior subjective synonym of *Mus alexandrinus* E. Geoffroy, 1803. Reg. no. 20376 (male; skull removed from skin). Laurie & Hill (1954: 100) treat E. Geoffroy's (1803) 'Catalogue des Mammifères du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle' as being not available and cite Desmarest, 1819 for *Mus alexandrinus*. Similarly, Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1966: 581) cite Desmarest, 1819 and not E. Geoffroy, 1803 for *Mus alexandrinus*. Nevertheless, I am accepting Holthuis' opinion (Bull. zool. Nomencl., 20 (1963): 242) that E. Geoffroy's 1803 catalogue is nomenclatorially available.

MATERIAL LISTED BY JENTINK IN HIS 1887 CATALOGUE

Page 203:

"Hydromys chrysogaster Geoffroy."

"*a*. Crâne d'une femelle adulte montée. Tasmanie. Londres, 1834. Très incomplet." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20340. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 280) under "*Hydromys chrysogaster a*".

"*b*. Mâchoires inférieures et incisives supérieures d'un individu adulte. Australie." — Name: *Hydromys chrysogaster* E. Geoffroy, 1804. Reg. no. 20377 (skull only).

Page 213:

"Mus lineolatus Gould."

"a. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Tasmanie. Frank. Très incomplet." — Name: *Pseudomys higginsii* (Trouessart, 1897). Reg. no. 20346. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 281) under "*Mus lineolatus a*".

"Mus fuscipes Waterhouse."

"a. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Australie, Port Albany. Voyage du Beagle. Très incomplet. Manquent les mâchoires inférieures." — Name: *Rattus fuscipes* (Waterhouse, 1839). Reg. no. 20354. This is the cranium belonging to the skin listed above (p. 282) under "*Mus fuscipes a*".

Page 216:

"Hapalotis albipes Lichtenstein."

"a. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Tasmanie. Très incomplet." — Name: *Conilurus albipes* (Lichtenstein, 1829). Reg. no. 20368. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 283) under "*Hapalotis albipes a*".

"b. Crâne d'un individu adulte. Tasmanie. Très incomplet." — Name: *Conilurus albipes* (Lichtenstein, 1829). Reg. no. 20378 (skull only). For a note on the locality "Tasmanie" see above (p. 283) under "*Hapalotis albipes a*".

"c. Crâne d'un individu adulte. Incomplet." — Name: *Conilurus albipes* (Lichtenstein, 1829). Reg. no. 20379 (skull only). The locality of this specimen, listed in Jentink's addenda on page 329, is unknown. The species has been recorded only from south-eastern Australia.

"Hapalotis mitchellii Gray."

"a, b. Crânes de femelles adultes montées. Australie occidentale. Très incomplets." — Name: *Notomys mitchellii* (Ogilby, 1838). Reg. no. 20369 and 20370, respectively. These are the skulls belonging to the skins listed above (p. 283) under "*Hapalotis mitchellii a, b*".

"c. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Australie occidentale, Williams-river. Incomplet." — Name: *Notomys mitchellii* (Ogilby, 1838). Reg. no. 20371. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 283) under "*Hapalotis mitchellii c*".

"Hapalotis longicaudatus Gould."

"a. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Australie, Victoria-plains, Moores-river. Incomplet." — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20373. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 284) under

"*Hapalotis longicaudatus a*"; it could not be found in the collection of the Leiden Museum in January 1966.

"*b*. La moitié droite du crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Moores-river." — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20374. This is the skull belonging to the skin listed above (p. 284) under "*Hapalotis longicaudatus b*".

"*c*. Crâne d'un individu adulte monté. Australie. Incomplet. Manquent les mâchoires inférieures." — Name: *Notomys longicaudatus* (Gould, 1844). Reg. no. 20375. This is the cranium belonging to the skin listed above (p. 284) under "*Hapalotis longicaudatus c*".

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Dr. A. M. Husson, Curator of Mammals, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands, kindly arranged for the skulls to be removed from many of the skins and otherwise facilitated my examination of Jentink's specimens.

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