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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *PHASCOGALE* FROM NORTH  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

By EDGAR R. WAITE, F.L.S., Zoologist.

In January 1902, Mr. A. C. Blyth, of this city, invited me to see three small mammals which he had just brought alive from the Pilbarra District, North Western Australia.

I found them to be an adult pair and a half-grown example of a species of *Phascogale*. Mr. Blyth told me that on passing through Western Australia he had also left two examples with the Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery. In April, Mr. Blyth kindly placed his animals in my charge for observation, but as I was at that time unable to give them the necessary study, they were returned, to await a more favorable opportunity. This proved a disastrous proceeding, for within a week the animals escaped and were not again seen.

Two months later Mr. B. H. Woodward, Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, asked me to examine the examples which he still had alive. In due course they were sent to me and form the subjects of the following descriptions. As they had unfortunately been prepared as dry skins, the descriptions are not so satisfactory as though examination in the flesh had been possible.

During the two or three days I had Mr. Blyth's animals in my possession, I found them to be very tolerant of the hand, having been accustomed thereto by their owner, though he told me that at first he had received some sharp bites from them.

I several times liberated them in a closed room but by approaching gently had small difficulty in securing them again. When startled, say by clapping the hands, they would make a spasmodic spring of two feet or more.

In response to any inquiries regarding the behaviour of the animals in captivity, Mr. Woodward writes:—"The only habits I noticed were the wonderful quickness and skill in catching beetles, of which they were very fond. They always avoided the light as much as possible."

When sending the specimens to me, Mr. Woodward expressed the wish that if new, Mr. Blyth's name might be associated with them. I have much pleasure in acceding to his request, and desire to thank both Mr. Woodward and Mr. Blyth for the facilities afforded me.

PHASCOGALE BLYTHI, *sp. nov.*

Size large, form delicate, fur close and soft with longer scattered hairs.

The colour of the upper parts is sandy, speckled with brown, the basal portion of the fur being dark-grey; top of snout pale yellow, eye surrounded with a ring of light hairs, upper whiskers black, the lower ones white.

The whole of the under parts, together with the inner side of the limbs and the lining of the pouch is pure white. No grey at the base of the fur; the fore limbs are pale yellow above, the hands thinly clothed above with white hairs. Palms with granulated pads each with raised striated area. Outside of thighs coloured like the body above; upper side of feet thickly covered with white hairs, the under surface, the heel excepted, is naked but partly concealed by the hairs on the sides, which are bent underneath: there are three pads, striated and similar to those of the palms, and a small hallux which does not nearly reach the pads, it has no pad and is clawless. Tail of moderate length, shorter than the body, incrassated; the proximal two-fifths above, covered with short stiff yellow hairs, the remainder with gradually lengthening black hairs, which do not however form a crest. The whole of the lower surface is black, with the exception of a small proximal portion, which is yellow.

*Dimensions.*

	Male, <i>ad.</i>	Female, <i>juv.</i>
Head and body ...	150.0 ...	132.0 mm.
Hind foot ...	27.8 ...	26.5 ,,
Tail ...	102.0 ...	95.0 ,,

*Skull.*—Short and broad, the bones of the nasal region so thin as to enable the tooth-roots to be seen through them; muzzle short and broad, its lateral profile swollen by the roots of the canines which render its breadth more than a third the basal length. Nasals rather long and noticeably expanded behind, their greatest more than once and a half their least breadth. Interorbital space moderate, its edges at the constriction rounded, in front of which they are acute and form two prominences on each side, a larger long posterior one, and a small tooth-like anterior one. Anterior palatine foramen extending to between the canines. Posterior palate with a pair of large vacuities opposite  $M^2$  and  $M^3$ , and a pair of minute ones behind them. Bullæ large and evenly rounded, their mastoid portion much swollen.

*Teeth.*—Of the upper incisors, the first pair are cylindrical, curved and separated from each other and from the second incisors, which are smallest. The lateral incisors are flattened, sub-equal

in height, but graduated in length, the posterior ones being longest; they are well separated from the canines which are long and slender.  $P^4$  not developed,  $P^3$  slightly larger than  $P^1$ . Lower incisors as large as the upper ones, spatulate, the anterior pair larger than the others. Canine without posterior basal ledge  $P^1$  and  $P^3$  large, subequal, touching each other, in contact with the canine and  $M^1$  respectively.  $M^1$  narrowed in front without antero-internal secondary cusp.

*Dimensions.*

Basal length ... ..	35.0	...	33.0
Greatest breadth ... ..	24.1	...	22.9
Nasals, length ... ..	12.2	...	10.7
,, breadth greatest ... ..	4.8	...	4.4
,, ,, least ... ..	2.9	...	2.5
Constriction ... ..	7.0	...	6.7
Palate length ... ..	18.0	...	17.9
,, outside $M^3$ ... ..	13.3	...	12.3
Palatal foramen ... ..	3.0	...	—
Basi-cranial axis ... ..	14.0	...	13.0
Basi-facial axis ... ..	21.0	...	20.0
Facial index ... ..	150	...	154
Teeth, length of $M^{1-3}$ ... ..	8.2	...	8.0
,, breadth of $M^4$ ... ..	2.2	...	2.1