

## A NEW FRUIT-BAT (*PTEROPUS RAYNERI* GROUP) FROM THE SOLOMONS.

BY

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For several months in 1927 Mr. G. A. V. Stanley, B.Sc., then Demonstrator in Geography at the University of Sydney, was stationed on Rennell Island, where he was sent by the University, at the request of the British Government, to study the geology of that remote and seldom visited locality. Consulted by Mr. Stanley regarding tropical conditions and equipment, I suggested that he might take a collecting can on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, with a view to securing mammals, birds and reptiles from a locality otherwise inaccessible to the Museum's resources.

After some very natural hesitation, actuated by the difficulties of landing, and uncertainty as to camping conditions and the attitude of the natives, Mr. Stanley very kindly agreed to add to his gear a large can of spirit for general collecting purposes.

Amongst the small but interesting collection subsequently received was a single adult fruit-bat which proved of exceptional interest in regard to its group affinities, and shows characters warranting its description as a new species.

*PTEROPUS RENNELLI* *sp. nov.*

*Diagnosis.*—Similar to *Pteropus cognatus* Andersen 1908, of San Christoval, the extreme eastern species of the *rayneri* group, which is characterised by the uniformly brownish back and light mantle, as opposed to the tricoloured backs of others of the group; also similar in having the coronoid height of the mandible slightly more than the length of  $c-m_3$ , instead of definitely less.

Differentiated from *cognatus* by the comparatively longer rostrum, and smaller tooth-rows (markedly shown in the reduced size of  $m^1$ ); also by having the tibia very sparsely, instead of thickly clothed above, and entirely naked below, instead of hairy for its proximal half. The marked elongation of the 2nd-5th metacarpals apparently also distinguishes it from *cognatus*, while the