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RECURRENCE OF *MEGADERMA GIGAS*, DOBSON.

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

Twenty years ago Dobson described *Megaderma gigas*, a new species of Bat from Australia,* since which time no further example has been made known. The type taken at Mount Margaret, Wilson's River, Queensland, is a male and is in the Göttingen Museum.

On the 9th February, the Trustees received from Mr. Fred. Hogan, by presentation, a specimen of the same species, taken in the Pilbarra District, Northern West Australia. This is a female, and presents some few differences from the description of the male. The example was mounted before reaching us, so that in the following table of dimensions, the measurements of the length of the head and body are approximate only; the other dimensions are, however, absolute.

Dobson's measurements are recorded in inches and tenths—these I have reduced to millimetres for comparison with my own figures, so expressed. From these it will be seen that the female, which is adult, is generally smaller than the male, but the lengths of the tibia and the first phalanx of the fifth finger are actually greater; more striking, perhaps, is the relative difference in the phalanx of the second finger, but this supports and emphasises Dobson's statement—“While in *M. spasma* the extremity of the second finger does not extend as far as the middle of the first phalanx of the third finger, in this species [*M. gigas*] as in *M. frons*, it extends beyond it.”

Further evidence that the West Australian example is referable to *M. gigas* is supplied by the circumstance of the extremity of the carpus, the thumb, and the membrane between the thumb and the second finger being hairy, in which respect it differs from the other known species.

The mammæ are two in number; they are situated one on each side of the upper abdominal region.

The colour does not differ from Dobson's description, but the pale grey of the upper surface shows brownish tints in certain lights; there is now no indication of the deep blood-red colour at the anterior base of the ears, shown in Dobson's figure and described as being present in the type when obtained, but which had apparently faded out before the author saw the specimen.

* Dobson—Proc. Zool. Soc., 1880, p. 461, pl. xlvii.

The general colour of the specimen, were it not characteristic of the genus, would have suggested albinism. The effect of the beautiful whiteness of the fur of the head and whole under surface has been quite lost in the figure.

Dimensions.

	♂ Type.	♀ Aust. Mus.
Head and body	135·0 mm.	110·0 mm.*
Length of head	48·5 "	41·0(?) , †
Ear	56·0 "	47·0 "
" " " " " " " "	12·0 "	10·0 "
" " " " " " " "	25·5 "	22·0 "
Nose leaf	16·0 "	15·0 "
Forearm	117·0 "	103·5 "
Thumb, or first finger	21·0 "	19·5 "
Second finger, metacarpal	84·5 "	80·5 "
" " " " " " " "	16·0 "	17·0 "
Third finger, metacarpal	69·0 "	68·0 "
" " " " " " " "	47·0 "	44·0 "
" " " " " " " "	92·0 "	80·0 "
Fourth finger, metacarpal	79·0 "	78·0 "
" " " " " " " "	25·5 "	24·5 "
" " " " " " " "	38·5 "	33·0 "
Fifth finger, metacarpal	84·5 "	82·0 "
" " " " " " " "	32·0 "	33·0 "
" " " " " " " "	28·5 "	23·5 "
Tibia	44·0 "	45·0 "
Calcaneum	28·5 "	28·0 "
Foot... ..	28·5 "	23·5 " ‡

* From crown of head.

† Occipital region of skull removed.

‡ Exclusive of claw.

[The following corrections were printed in the Table of Contents for Volume 3 on 1st December 1900 and have been here inserted.—Sub-Editor, June 2009.]

CORRECTIONS.

XI.

CORRECTIONS.

- Page 16, line 3—for “*Columbia*” read “*Columba*.”
- „ 28, line 25—for “*leuoscopelus*” read “*leucoscopelus*.”
- „ 29, line 5—for “*leuoscopelus*” read “*leucoscopelus*.”
- „ 29, line 16—for “*leuoscopelus*” read “*leucoscopelus*.”
- „ 67, line 34—for “meridional” read “meridional.”
- „ 188—*Megaderma gigas* has also been recorded from Central Australia.
- „ 195—Delete “*Epinephelus tauvina*, Forskal.”
- „ 210, line 5—for “B. B. Woodward” read “B. H. Woodward.”
- Plate viii., Explanation—for “*Columnopora*” read “*Columnaria*.”
- „ xi., Explanation—for “*sublimais*” read “*sublimis*.”
- Part iv., cover, List of Contents—for “*alanta*” read “*alata*.”
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