

A REVISION OF THE RATS OF THE GENUS *LEPORILLUS*
AND THE
STATUS OF *HAPALOTIS PERSONATA* KREFFT.

By

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(Plates v-vi.)

While on a collecting expedition on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, at various stations on the Trans-Australian Railway, I secured several specimens of a stick-nest building rat. This series, in association with specimens already in the Museum collection, has proved of such interest that I present the following conclusions derived therefrom, together with figures of the cranial and other characters of the species of the genus. I am also able to supply notes upon the habits, and a photograph of the nest, of some of these interesting creatures.

During an examination of rats of the short-footed "jerboa" type, I had the cranium of the type of *Hapalotis personata* Krefft removed, and am now able to submit a note upon its status.

I wish to express my especial indebtedness to Professor F. Wood Jones, who generously supplied authentic specimens of *L. jonesi* so soon as he became aware that I was working upon the species of *Leporillus*. Also to Mr. Oldfield Thomas for his encouraging interest and valued notes received in correspondence, dealing with various species of Muridae. Of the Museum staff, I am indebted to Mr. A. R. McCulloch for his very willing help, and to Mr. J. R. Kinghorn, who most kindly prepared the figures, with the help of his assistant, Mr. H. O. Fletcher.

Genus *LEPORILLUS* Thomas.

Leporillus Thomas, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) xvii, 1906, p. 83—
Orthotype *H. apicalis* Gould; *Id. loc. cit.* (8) iii, 1909, p. 372
(footnote), and (8) vi, 1910, p. 606 (footnote).

First and second upper molars each with two internal cusps; postero-internal cusps absent. Lower m^1 and m^2 each with a posterior concavity, in which a distinct median supplementary cusp is placed. Hind feet with the usual six pads. Ears long. Skull without supra-orbital ridges.

Affinities.—This genus resembles *Rattus* and *Notomys* in having the same number of molar cusps on m^1 and m^2 , but differs from the former in having much longer ears, and from the latter in having a short and broad hind foot with six interdigital pads, instead of a long and very slender foot with three to four pads.