

A NEW TREE-KANGAROO FROM SOUTH-EASTERN PAPUA.

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The female *Dendrolagus* described below, which was received at Taronga Zoological Park in 1935 through the courteous efforts of Mr. O. J. Atkinson, provides what appears to be the south-easternmost Papuan record for the genus, and apparently represents a new pale-faced, drabby brown form of the *dorianus* group. When immature the animal was of an even dark-brown colour, but has since developed a strikingly pallid facial coloration in contrast with the dark muzzle, ears, and drabby brown body.

As the present coloration is evidently characteristic of the adult female pelage, and the well-conditioned animal may survive for a considerable time, it seems advisable to make the form known by a preliminary description of the external features, awaiting examination of cranial and dental characters before settling the question of specific status.

The discovery of yet another form of this interesting group of the genus, in addition to the two-colour phases, figured in their splendid review of "The Genus *Dendrolagus*," by Lord Rothschild and Captain Guy Dollman¹, emphasizes the point stressed in our recent paper², describing two new species, that the high mountain and river systems of New Guinea have favoured the development of a surprising number of confusingly varied and inter-related races of the several species of tree-kangaroos.

Owing to the remarkably specialized habits of the animals, races and species appear to develop in closer proximity than do those of purely terrestrial genera. Unfortunately, however, very little cranial differentiation is shown by various forms over a considerable geographical range, while occasional extremes of local colour variation make it difficult to isolate and stabilise what may actually be fixed geographical races.

The desirability of dealing with the new south-eastern race is further indicated by the fact that the pale-headed animal figured by Rothschild and Dollman as the true *D. dorianus dorianus* does not represent the typical male or female, according to comparison with the co-types in the Macleay Museum, and the series, including topotypes, in the Australian Museum. On the contrary, the rich coloration of the female phase figured as *dorianus* ab. loc. *aurea* from the same faunal area as the typical *dorianus*, though brighter, is quite in keeping with the female co-type. Indeed, except for lacking the paler crown the coloration of the head accords far more with that of the co-types of both sexes than does the head of the animal figured as typical *dorianus*. Unfortunately, neither the locality or sex of the latter is indicated by Rothschild and Dollman, but as the animal is shown to lack the dark to blackish-brown muzzle and ears of the typical and other forms of the group, and the face is paler than the typical *dorianus*, the new name of *palliceps* is now applied to the colour form

¹ Rothschild and Dollman—Trans. Zool. Soc., xxi, 6, 1936, pp. 477–502, pls. xxxv–lvii. Our copy by courtesy of Mr. Melbourne Ward, F.Z.S.

² Troughton and Le Souef.—Australian Zoologist, viii, 3, 1936, pp. 193–7.