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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.

figured on plate xxxix. Though doubtless a purely local phase, or sex aberration, comparable to and possibly associated with *aurea*, the name will serve to distinguish it from the pale-crowned more drabby brown animal described below, which was taken some 150 miles south-east from the typical habitat of the species.

***Dendrolagus dorianus profugus* subsp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—A drabby brown animal with the pallid crown and facial area strongly contrasting with the blackish brown muzzle and ears and general drab coloration, and thus distinguished from the typical race in which the crown is merely a lighter grizzled tone of the body coloration. Rhinarium also differing, naked except in centre line, instead of being sparsely but evenly haired. Habitat: Inland towards Mt. Simpson, from Boianai, which is near Radava, at the eastern end of Goodenough Bay, North-eastern Division of Papua.

Description.—Form and limbs stout and face broadly rounded, the effect increased by the long upstanding fur, which renders the rump-whorl rather indistinct; fur measuring about 30 mm. in middle of back. General colour of back drabby to hair brown grizzled with the lighter buffy and dark brown hair-tips, lacking the warm to ochraceous buff (Ridgway) tones of true *dorianus*, but having a wash of dark russet around the rump and tail-base. Throat, chest, and centre of belly paler buffy to yellowish brown, but the sides not contrasting markedly. Basal part of fur above and below not distinctly paler than the outer half but toning imperceptibly with the tips, some of which are actually lighter. Dorsal stripe dark brown, rather faintly defined but continuous from the rump to between the ears. Crown ashy or cinereous grey from eyes to ears and merging into the buffy to pale fulvous grey cheeks, the pallid facial area contrasting strongly with the dark to blackish brown ears and muzzle, as does the dark chin with the buffy throat. Rhinarium naked except for slight hairing in the centre line, instead of being completely hairy as in typical *dorianus*. Fore and hind limbs paler than in *dorianus*, especially the manus, which is grizzled grey instead of blackish brown. Small, rounded, pale buffy rump spot not extending around base or along tail as a stripe. Tail almost equalling the head and body length in the live animal, coarse-haired and brush-like, dark to blackish brown in outer half, with some pale buffy hairs at the tip, but entire tail lacking the admixture of shining ochraceous buff hairs of typical *dorianus* tails, which tend to form a light tip.

Dimensions.—Alive: Head and body about 600; tail 565; pes 108; ear about 45 mm.

Holotype.—Young adult female received at Taronga Zoological Park in 1935 from Denewa; altitude 3–4,000 feet, inland towards Mt. Simpson from Boianai, which is near Radava, at the eastern end of Goodenough Bay, North-eastern Division of Papua. Specimen eventually to be lodged in the Australian Museum.

Remarks.—It must be stressed in distinguishing this race that the somewhat lighter crown of normal *dorianus* tones, rather than contrasts, with the general coloration, the entire head not being pale as figured for the typical animal by Rothschild and Dollman, the muzzle actually being dark brown almost to the eyes, while the ears also are much darker than shown. The keynote of Ramsay's description was uniformity, the general coloration being given as uniform dark brown "all over," so that the succeeding "on the head . . . paler than on the body" evidently meant that the head toned rather than contrasted with the body.

A somewhat confusing point also was that Ramsay referred to the " muffle " as blackish, as if only the rhinarium was dark-coloured, but his use of the term " whiskers " indicates the blackish-brown colour of the muzzle as well. Therefore, condensation of the original description by Thomas, " Head short-haired, paler than the body " in the " Catalogue " is misleading, apart from the original context, and may have prompted selection of an entirely pale-headed animal as the typical form.

The drab coloration and dense upstanding coat of the new race are apparently indicative of its high and possibly more exposed habitat on the opposite coast, about 150 miles south-east of the type locality of *dorianus*. It is evidently closely related to the typical form, but, pending examination of the cranial and dental features, may certainly be regarded as subspecifically distinguishable from any known phase of the *dorianus* group.

The race is distinguished from the more northern and north-western examples of the species by the drab brown general colour, and the cinereus crown, which strongly contrasts with it and the dark nose and ears, extension of the dorsal stripe onto the nape, and the notably less hairy rhinarium. The sombre general coloration of the female, in a species having that sex usually brighter coloured, indicates that males of the new race may be of an even more drabby tone, and thus further emphasise its distinctness.