

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RODENT (\*)

FROM CENTRAL CHILI

BY

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Quite a number of years ago I have noticed that skins of what are known in the fur trade as "chinchilla rats" are frequently offered for sale as true chinchilla skins. Many fruitless attempts were made to obtain a complete specimen from dealers and others. From what could be learnt from such skins, I had little doubt that they would be found to belong to an "abrocoma", but only when Mr. Walter Goodfellow, F. Z. S. showed me, in 1912, an incomplete skin given to him by Lady Murray in Vallenar, did my hopes of obtaining the species revive. I am now under a great obligation to Sir John Murray who was kind enough to send me a live specimen of an adult male of the new species which I venture to name in his honour,

### *Abrocoma Murrayi*, sp. n.

Size and form as in *A. Bennettii*. Fur much longer and silkier. General colour silvery grey washed with pale yellow. On back and head, also surface of arms and legs, hairs slaty grey for four fifths of their length, the terminal fifth pale yellow, on muzzle base slaty grey for half the length, tips pale grey. Fur slightly shorter on under side of body, base of hairs slaty grey, tips pure white, giving the silvery appearance of chinchilla skins. On the region between throat and

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(\*) Juntamente con la descripción del roedor, que aquí publicamos, nuestro amigo el señor Wolffsohn nos ha remitido un ejemplar de un Acaro del género *Ixodes* (parásito en dicho roedor) que, por creerlo nuevo, lo remitiremos en breve al sabio especialista Dr. Lahille, para su descripción. LA REDACCIÓN.

breast an irregular pale cinnamon coloured patch. Tail densely covered with shorter hairs of the same general colour as body, without slaty grey base, under side of tail fur dirty white. Upper surface of hands and feet covered with pure white hairs, not dirty white as in *A. Bennettii*, under surface bare with same granular tubercles. Ears, measured from notch at base to tip, of the same size as in *A. Bennettii*, are in reality much larger, as the lower lobe reaches far below the notch. Also much broader, same breadth as length, roughly semicircular in shape.

The type specimen being intended for Mr. Oldfield Thomas, I have resisted the temptation of cleaning the skull, in which he may find differences from that of *A. Bennettii*, though the molars of upper and lower jaw have the same appearance and size as those of that species. Outer surface of incisors much paler yellow than in *A. Bennettii*.

Dimensions of *type*, measured in the flesh:

Head and body 195 mm.; tail 133; hind foot 32; ear 30.

*Hab.* Vallenar, Alt. 600 m.

*Type*, adult male. Original number 535.

