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A NEW MARMOT FROM CHITRAL.

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By the kindness of the authorities of the Bombay Natural History Society I have been entrusted with the determination of a Marmot obtained at Chitral by Capt. H. O. Stirling, and presented by him to the Society.

The species is the smallest of the group of Golden Marmots, of which the handsome *Marmota caudata* of Kashmir is the largest and best-known member. The new form may be described as follows :—

Marmota stirlingi, sp. n.

Size smallest of the group. General colour approximating to the rich orange-tawny found in *M. littledalei*, distinctly more tawny than in *aurea* and *flavina*. Fur of back smoky brown at base, then beaming, for the terminal half of the wool-hairs, ochraceous buff, beyond which again the larger hairs darken to ochraceous tawny, their -extreme tips black. Below, the fur is more broadly brown at the base than in the allied forms, the buffy tips of the hairs not hiding their brown bases, so that the colour may be said to be brown washed with buffy; in the other species there is little or no brown on the buffy hairs. Sides of neck and shoulders grizzled greyish, the long hairs black with buffy subterminal rings. Top of muzzle with a distinct black patch; crown grizzled buffy, nape ochraceous tawny like back. Arms and legs rich golden buffy. Hands and feet similar, some black hairs at the bases of the claws. Tail for its basal three-fourths buffy, with brownish bases to the hairs, the terminal fourth blackish brown.

Skull smaller than in other members of the group, the molars distinctly lighter.

No flesh measurements available; hindfoot, dried, 72 mm.

Skull, distance from back of postorbital process to lambdoid crest 37; zygomatic breadth 53-4; intertemporal breadth 17-4; upper tooth-row 20; front of p⁴ to back of m³ 17'5; breadth of p⁴ 4-6; lower tooth-row 19"3.

Habitat.—Chitral. Type from "head of Chitral Nullah, 11,000'."

Type.—Adult male. B. M. No. 15.7.1.10. Original number 5. Collected April 1914, by Oapt. H. D. Stirling. Presented to the National Museum by the Bombay Natural History Society.

This species is distinguished from the other members of the group by its smaller size, the greyish grizzling of the sides of the neck and shoulders, and the greater amount of brown on the belly.

On examining all the members of this group of marmots I find that *Marmota littledalei*, the Pamir Marmot, is more closely allied to Blanford's *aurea* than I supposed when describing it, but may be distinguished by its tawny instead of golden buffy general colour.

The five forms of the group may be provisionally distinguished as follows:—

- A.* Size largest. Upper tooth-row upwards of 22-5 mm. Back broadly washed with blackish *caudata*.
- B.* Size smaller. Back golden or tawny, with but little black.
- a.* Upper tooth-row about 21 mm. Belly buffy with but little or no brown at base of hairs. Sides of neck not grizzled.'
- a*¹. Back tawny, a dark tail tip *littledalei*.
- b*^x. Back golden-buffy.
- a*². A dark tail tip. Top and sides of neck alike buffy *aurea*.
- 6*². Tail tip scarcely darker. Nape much darker than sides of neck *flavina*.
- b.* Upper tooth-row 20 mm. Belly hairs broadly brow basally. Sides of neck grizzled *stirlingi*.