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*P. Hewitsoni*, Moore. The blue area as large as in the former, occupying the entire discoidal cell of the fore wing, and in the submedian interspace all but reaching the outer margin. There are two blue apical spots as in *Hewitsoni*, but no black spot in the submedian interspace as in most specimens of that species, nor even the black line on the submedian vein as in typical *pleurata*. In the hind wing the blue area occupies the discoidal cell and extends a little above the radial. The outer margin of the hind wing is narrowly black, and there are, as in *pleurata*, traces of marginal and submarginal rows of black markings.

Below, the markings much resemble those of *pleurata*, but are more indistinct, more parallel, and on a pale ground.

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### X.—Description of a new Rat from China.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

AMONG a collection made at Kuatun, N.W. Fokien, and presented to the National Museum by Messrs. J. de La Touche and C. B. Rickett, there occur three specimens of a fine large rat as large as *Mus Edwardsi*, Thos., found at the same locality, but quite different from that and more nearly allied to the Burmese *Mus Bowersi*, And. It is, however, clearly distinct, and may be called

#### *Mus Latouchei*, sp. n.

Size very large. Upper surface uniformly clear grizzled grey, without tinge of yellow; the fur composed of grey hairs intermixed with slender, flattened, white, brown-tipped spines, not numerous or stiff enough to make the fur feel really spinous. Under surface pure white or yellowish white throughout, the line of demarcation on sides not very sharply defined. Ears large, evenly rounded. Hands white above, the fingers almost naked. Feet greyish proximally, white on the digits. Tail about as long as the head and body, its scales averaging about ten to the centimetre, very thinly haired, uniformly brown above and below, the extreme tip white.

Skull, in proportion to the size of the animal, rather lightly built. Compared to that of *Mus Bowersi* the nasals are more square-ended behind, the line of the fronto-premaxillary and fronto-nasal sutures runs straight across from side to side

instead of being bowed backwards; the supraorbital rims are more developed (though still small for so large an animal), and are continued along the parietals to the outer corners of the intermaxillary. Anterior edge of anteorbital plate more slanting. Posterior nares wider and more open than in the allied form. Incisors broad, pale yellowish, finely but irregularly striated in front.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female in skin):—

Head and body (probably stretched) 310 millim.; tail 290; hind foot (moistened) 60\*.

Skull: basal length 51·3; greatest breadth 27·4; nasals 23 × 5·6; interorbital breadth 8·2; breadth of brain-case 21·3; interparietal 7 × 16·2; palate length from henselion 26; diastema 17; anterior palatine foramina 10·6 × 4; length of upper molar series 9·1.

*Hab.* Kuantun, N.W. Fokien.

*Type:* B.M. no. 97.6.6.2.

This fine rat is evidently very closely allied to *Mus Bowersi*, which is a native of Burma and Tenasserim, and is therefore widely distinct from it geographically. It differs, however, by its rather larger size, especially its longer hind feet, and by the various cranial differences above enumerated.

It is named in honour of Mr. J. de La Touche, of Foochow, to whom, in conjunction with Mr. Rickett, the British Museum is indebted for a considerable number of valuable Chinese mammals. Among these may be specially mentioned examples of the rare *Typhlomys cinereus*, M.-Edw., specimens which have enabled me for the first time to show the proper position of this interesting genus †.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*Ueber die Palpen der Rhopaloceren. Ein Beitrag zur Erkenntnis der Verwandtschaftlichen Beziehungen unter den Tagfaltern.* Von ENZIO REUTER. (Acta Societatis Scientiarum Fennicæ, tom. xxii. No. 1.) (Helsingfors, 1896.)

THE early writers on insects used to complain that the Order Lepidoptera was one of the most difficult of all to classify, on account of the deficiency of characters. But with the increase of our know-

\* The two other specimens have hind feet 57·5 and 58 millim. long. Three spirit-specimens of *M. Bowersi* in the Fea collection have feet respectively 51, 51, and 52 millim. in length.

† P. Z. S. 1896, p. 1016.