

FURTHER RECORDS OF SMALLER MAMMALS FROM THE KALAHARI GEMSBOK NATIONAL PARK

I. L. RAUTENBACH

Transvaal Museum

P.O. Box 413

Pretoria

0001

and

J. A. J. NEL

Mammal Research Institute

University of Pretoria

Pretoria

0002

An earlier paper (Rautenbach 1971) summarized documented distributional data on the smaller mammals in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, Republic of South Africa. Since then continued field-work in this Park (e.g. Nel and Rautenbach *in press*) has yielded more information on the distribution of some previously recorded species, whilst other species have been recorded for the first time. Collecting has been concentrated on two localities in the vicinity of Twee Rivieren, two near Nossob Camp, as well as at Dankbaar in the north-central portion of the Park.

In the accounts of the species that follow, all measurements are in millimetres, and mass in grams. These recordings are given for specimens not kept as study skins. For taxonomic usage we follow Smithers (1971). For the locations of places referred to in the Park, see map in Bothma and De Graaff (1973).

Manis temminckii Smuts, 1832 – new record.

Pangolin. Ietermagô.

A specimen was found and photographed by Haagner (*pers. comm.*) on the boundary road between Mata-Mata and Unie-End. Although very rare, apparently distributed throughout the Park, especially the northern areas.

Crocidura hirta deserti Schwann, 1906.

Desert Musk Shrew. Kalahari-skeerbek.

A female (TL = 120, T = 45, HF = 16, E = 10, mass = 14) was live-trapped in a dune trough near Twee Rivieren, and another female (134 –

42 – 15 – 8 = 18) snap-trapped on the low riverbank dunes near Nossob Camp. These shrews seem widely distributed in the Park, at least near the riverbeds, as their skulls are common in owl pellets (Nel and Nolte 1965, unpublished data).

Papio ursinus Kerr, 1792 – new record.
Chacma Baboon. Kaapse Bobbejaan.

A large individual, probably a male (Smithers 1971) was seen in December 1974 some 5 km N of Cubitje Quap, in the Nossob River.

Vulpes chama A. Smith, 1833.
Silver Jackal. Silwer Jakkals.

Several sight records of this species were obtained between Nossob Camp and Bedinkt.

Genetta genetta pulchra Matschie, 1902.
Small-spotted Genet. Kleinkol-muskejaatkat.

Sight records of this species from the vicinity of Kwang Pan are available, and it is probably a common predator in the riverbeds. The presence of a second species (or subspecies) is suspected, but in the absence of study material identification at this stage remains hypothetical.

Herpestes sanguineus Rüppel, 1836.
Slender Mongoose. Rooimuishond.

Also seen at Nossob Camp, next to the road on the riverbank.

Cynictis penicillata Ogilby, 1833.
Yellow Mongoose. Geelmeerkat.

Several individuals were live-trapped or seen on the dune slopes, troughs and crests near Twee Rivieren. Often seen in pairs.

Suricata suricatta suricatta Schreber, 1776.
Suricate. Graaitjiemeerkat.

Widely, but discontinuously, distributed in the Nossob River from Nossob Camp to Unie-End.

Felis libyca griselda Thomas, 1926.
African Wild Cat. Vaalboskat.

In the Nossob River they are common near Nossob Camp and Kwang, and have also been seen near Grootkolk, Rooikop, Jan se Draai and just N of Twee Rivieren, as well as Houmoed in die Auob River. On a number of occasions they have been seen in *Acacia giraffae* trees.

Thallomys paedulus nigricauda Thomas, 1882.
Black-tailed Tree Rat. Swartstert-boomrot.

Also trapped on the riverbank at Kaspersdraai, in grass nests on fallen treestump. Co-inhabited these nests with *Aethomys namaquensis*.

Mus minutoides induta Thomas, 1910
Pygmy Mouse. Dwergmuis.

Trapped on the dune slopes and troughs near Twee Rivieren, on the riverbanks near Nossob Camp, and at Dankbaar.

Aethomys namaquensis A. Smith, 1834 – new record.
Namaqua Rock Rat. Namakwalandse klipmuis.

Trapped on the riverbank near Nossob Camp, and also at Kaspersdraai. Their large grass nests have also been noted in the dunes W of Nossob Camp.

Measurements, mean and range: Males (2) TL = 251 (237–264); T = 143 (130–155); HF = 28 (24–27); E = 17 (16–17); mass = 40 (32–48). Females (4) TL = 202 (119–261); T = 121 (105–145); HF = 25 (24–25); E = 15 (13–17); mass = 34 (25–42).

Zelotomys woosnami Schwan, 1906 – new record.
Woosnam's Desert Rat. Woosnamse Woestynrot.

Trapped in the dune troughs near Twee Rivieren and also on the riverbanks near Nossob Camp, and on a flat area in the riverbed some 10 km S of Nossob Camp. Measurements, mean and range: Males (5) TL = 237 (208–253); T = 111 (102–116); HF = 26 (24–29); E = 17 (15–20); mass = 62 (42–78). Females (4) TL = 232 (192–256); T = 104 (89–111); HF = 25 (21–28); E = 17 (16–18); mass = 62 (50–85).

Dendromus melanotis shortridgei St. Leger, 1930.
Grass-climbing Mouse. Grasklimmuis.

Trapped on the dune slopes near Twee Rivieren, and on the riverbanks and riverbed near Nossob Camp. Measurements, mean and range: Male (2) TL = 130 (129–131); T = 72; HF = 15 (12–17); E = 17 (16–18); mass

= 6 (5-7). Females (3) TL = 135 (133-139); T = 78 (72-83); HF = 18 (16-19); E = 16 (16-17); mass = 7 (6-8).

Malacothrix typica kalaharicus Roberts, 1932.

Large-eared Mouse. Grootoormuis.

Trapped on calcrete riverbank at the confluence, at Kwang Pan, and in the riverbed at Nossob Camp. Measurements, mean and range: Males (2) TL = 104 (95-112); T = 30 (28-32); HF = 18; E = 19 (18-20); mass = 11 (10-12). Females (2) TL = 97 (91-103); T = 30 (28-32); HF = 17 (15-18); E = 20 (19-20); mass = 12 (9-15).

Acknowledgements

We thank the National Parks Board of Trustees for permission to work in the Park, the University of Pretoria for a research grant to Nel, which made continued fieldwork possible, and J. W. H. Ferguson for some sight records.

REFERENCES

- BOTHMA, J. DU P. and G. DE GRAAFF. 1973. A habitat map of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. *Koedoe* 16:181-188.
- NEL, J. A. J. and H. NOLTE. 1965. Notes on the prey of owls in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, with special reference to the small mammals. *Koedoe* 8:75-81.
- NEL, J. A. J. and I. L. RAUTENBACH. *In press*. Habitat use and community structure of rodents in the southern Kalahari. *Mammalia*.
- RAUTENBACH, I. L. 1971. Notes on the small mammals of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. *Koedoe* 14:137-143.
- SMITHERS, R. H. N. 1971. *The Mammals of Botswana*. Mus. Mem. 4, National Museum of Rhodesia, Salisbury.