

*A new Subspecies of Vole from Turkestan.*

By V. G. HEPTNER.

*Microtus (Chionomys) nivalis dementievi*, subsp. n.

*Type*.—N.S. 27579, Orig. N. 5 a, 28. xi. 1936. Mt. Dushak, near Ghermab, Kopet-Dagh Mts., Transcaspia, 7000 ft. Skin and skull in the Zoological Museum, Moscow University.

*Diagnosis*.—*Ch. n. dementievi* belongs to the group of subspecies with five loops on the third upper molar \* and with bullæ osseæ relatively large and rather swollen ; it is characterized by the upper parts of a very pale and light colour of a dull brownish sandy tint. The dark basal parts of hairs distinctly visible on belly, which is tinted grey. The demarcation line between the colours of the under and the upper part of body is distinct,

\* Subspecies of the group *Chionomys gud* Sat. (a distinct species ?), from the main Caucasus range and in the extreme north-eastern part of Turkey (Trebizond region), have seven loops on M.3. Forms with five loops on M.3 are absent from the main Caucasus range, but occur in the mountains of Transcaucasia.

though not sharp. Tail uniformly white both above and below. Fore and hind feet white above. The tooth-row is relatively heavy.

*Measurements.*—Head and body 115, tail 55, hind foot 18, ear 15 mm.

Condyllo-basal length of the skull 27·6; zygomatic breadth 15·9; nasal bones length 8·2; interorbital constriction 4·4; upper molar series (alveoli) 6·2; greatest length of bulla (incl. *pars mastoidea*) 10·3 mm.

Representatives of the subgenus *Chionomys* have not yet been recorded from Turkestan. The eastern limit of range of this species, as far as known, appeared to have been the eastern part of the main Caucasus range. The discovery of this species in Kopet-Dagh \* extends further eastward the limits of its distribution, as well as that of the whole *Chionomys* group. This discovery and the occurrence of *Chionomys* in Asia Minor permit us to suggest that these voles are probably widely distributed in Persia, at least in its northern region. In particular, there can be little doubt in regard to *Chionomys* inhabiting the Elbourz mountain range.

The new subspecies is dedicated to Mr. G. P. Dementiev, curator of birds of the Zoological Museum, Moscow University.