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## ЗАМЕТКИ

### What *Apodemus sylvaticus arianus* (Blanford, 1881) is?

In the classic "Checklist of Indian and Palaearctic mammals" (Ellermann, Morrison-Scott, 1951), all Persian wood mice are designated as *Apodemus sylvaticus arianus* with three synonyms, namely *Mus erythronotus* Blanford, 1875, *Mus arianus* Blanford, 1881 and *Mus sylvaticus wetherbyi* Thomas, 1902.

Progress in the taxonomy of the *Sylvaemus* (= *Apodemus* auct.) *sylvaticus* group resulted in establishing of four new species: *A. microps* Kratochvil, Rosicky, 1952, *A. falzfeini* Mezherin, Zagorodniuk, 1989, *A. hermonensis* Fillippucci et al., 1989 and *A. hyrcanicus* Vorontsov et al., 1992. Moreover, analysis of the *S. sylvaticus* s. str. range based on the extensive collection and genetically marked material has clearly shown that this species does not penetrate eastward beyond the Eastern borders of Ukraine. Eastward, two other *Sylvaemus* species occur, namely *S. uralensis* Pall. (= *microps*) and *S. falzfeini* (Zagorodniuk, 1993). It is also obvious now that some of the older taxa of "*sylvaticus*" group are conspecific with one of the mentioned "new" species. Among them is the oldest non-european "*sylvaticus*", namely "*Apodemus sylvaticus arianus*" from Persia.

According to original description (Blanford, 1975, 1881), the name "*arianus*" is a replacing name for previous Blanford's taxon *Mus erythronotus* (nom. praecoc.). We have examined types of both *M. arianus* Blanford and *M. s. wetherbyi* Thomas which have been found in the collection of the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) thanking to the kind help of Dr. Paula Jenkins. Type materials in BMNH were investigated by V. Tkach, another — by I. Zagorodniuk.

*Mus erythronotus* Blanford (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1875, 16: 311): skull without skin with the label "female, N 74.11.21.22; cotype *Mus erythronotus arianus*, Persia, Kohrud, N. of ?". Body measurements are absent. Measurements of the type skull: CBL=23,7, Zyg=12,0?, HCr=8,8, LBU=4,5?, M<sup>13</sup>=3,78, LFI=4,9 mm; postpalatine cut П-shaped. *Mus sylvaticus wetherbyi* Thomas (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1902, 10: 490): skull and skin with the label "May 15, 1902; male, N 2.10.1.14; Sheoul, Fars, Persia, alt. 5200', H. F. Wetherby; H&B=93 1/2, TI=102, Hf=21, Ear=16; type". Measurements of the type skull: CBL=22,7, Zyg=11,5, HCr=8,9, LBU=3,5, M<sup>13</sup>=3,25, LFI=4,8 mm; postpalatine cut is rounded.

We identified the type specimen of *M. s. wetherbyi* Thomas as belonging to the species *S. uralensis* Pallas (= *microps* auct.). *M. arianus* was identified as conspecific to *A. falzfeini* described from Ukraine (Mezherin, Zagorodniuk, 1989), *A. hermonensis* from Israel (Fillippucci et al., 1989), *A. chorassanicus* Ognev et Heptner from the Kopetdagh (Zykov, 1991) and *A. fulvipectus* Ognev from the Caucasus (Vorontsov et al., 1992). Consequently, all these four names should be placed in the synonymy of *S. arianus* Blanford. Thus, the range of the steppe mouse covers an extensive zone of steppes and semideserts, from the Dnieper, Crimea and Asia Minor in the West to the Daghestan and Kopetdagh in the East, and from the southern Russia to southern Iran.

The following synonymy of the Steppe mouse is established: *Sylvaemus arianus* Blanford, 1881, stat. rev.: 1875. *Mus erythronotus* Blanford: Iran, Isfakhan, Kohrud; type in BMNH, N 74.11.21.22; nom. praecoc. (non Temminck, 1845 for *Rattus rattus* ssp.). 1881. *Mus arianus* Blanford: nom. nov. pro *Mus erythronotus* Blanford. 1924. *Sylvaemus sylvaticus fulvipectus* Ognev: Georgia, Dusheti distr., Kobi; types in Zool. Mus. Moscow Univ. (ZMMU), N 26596—26598, 27424, paratype N 13831 (vic. of Lars, 1923) in Zool. Inst., S.-Petersburg. 1928. *Mus (Silvimus) sylvaticus chorassanicus* Ognev et Heptner (Ogneff, Heptner, 1928: 263) — Turkmenistan, Ashkhabad, Makhtum-Kala; type in ZMMU, N 27429. 1989. *Apodemus (Sylvaemus) falzfeini* Mezherin, Zagorodniuk: Ukraine, Kherson reg., Askania-Nova; types in Ukr. Cent. Mus. Nat. Hist., Kyiv, N 11121—11131. 1989. *Apodemus hermonensis* Fillippucci, Simson, Nevo: Israel, Hermon Mts.

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