

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *PHASCOGALE* FROM NORTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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In January 1902, Mr. A. C. Blyth, of this city, invited me to see three small mammals which he had just brought alive from the Pilbarra District, North Western Australia.

I found them to be an adult pair and a half-grown example of a species of *Phascogale*. Mr. Blyth told me that on passing through Western Australia he had also left two examples with the Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery. In April, Mr. Blyth kindly placed his animals in my charge for observation, but as I was at that time unable to give them the necessary study, they were returned, to await a more favorable opportunity. This proved a disastrous proceeding, for within a week the animals escaped and were not again seen.

Two months later Mr. B. H. Woodward, Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, asked me to examine the examples which he still had alive. In due course they were sent to me and form the subjects of the following descriptions. As they had unfortunately been prepared as dry skins, the descriptions are not so satisfactory as though examination in the flesh had been possible.

During the two or three days I had Mr. Blyth's animals in my possession, I found them to be very tolerant of the hand, having been accustomed thereto by their owner, though he told me that at first he had received some sharp bites from them.

I several times liberated them in a closed room but by approaching gently had small difficulty in securing them again. When startled, say by clapping the hands, they would make a spasmodic spring of two feet or more.

In response to any inquiries regarding the behaviour of the animals in captivity, Mr. Woodward writes:—"The only habits I noticed were the wonderful quickness and skill in catching beetles, of which they were very fond. They always avoided the light as much as possible."

When sending the specimens to me, Mr. Woodward expressed the wish that if new, Mr. Blyth's name might be associated with them. I have much pleasure in acceding to his request, and desire to thank both Mr. Woodward and Mr. Blyth for the facilities afforded me.