Uromys, the giant naked tailed murine rat, also inhabits south-east New Guinea and has the added advantage of being the only mammal under serious consideration, other than *Hypsiprymnodon*, to have a scaly tail. But it is said to eat only coconuts[1] and it is neither water living nor odoriferous.

Dorcopsis has fewer points in its favour and the same disadvantages as *Thylogale*.

Whether Prado touched one of the islands of northern Queensland as he passed through Torres Strait is a debated point[3,6,7]. No help, therefore, can be obtained towards the zoological identification of the animal from its geographical distribution, particularly as the *Relación* was probably written some years later, after Diego de Prado y Tovar's return to Spain in 1615.

It seems impossible, therefore, to decide between *Thylogale*, *Hypsiprymnodon* or the rodent *Uromys* on the present evidence though the description fits *Hypsiprymnodon* well. Other members of the New Guinea fauna, cockatoos and cassowaries, were described with considerable accuracy by Prado and therefore there seems little reason to doubt his accuracy in this case. It is possible, however, that writing some years later he confused two mammals that he had seen, *Thylogale* and *Uromys*, and the result is a composite picture of the two. Alternatively Prado may have been describing the musk kangaroo from one of the north Queensland islands, or this animal may once have inhabited the south-eastern tip of New Guinea.

Whatever the identification, there seems no doubt that Diego de Prado y Tovar was one of the first to bring back to Europe a description of an indigenous Australasian mammal.

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Fossil Rodents from Fort Ternan, Kenya

THE rodent fauna from Fort Ternan which Dr. L. S. B. Leakey has sent to me for examination consists for the moment of only a few specimens comprising the following:

Seventeen mandibles, a fragment of a skull in which the teeth are unfortunately very worn, and 26 incisors. The mandibles represent creatures of small size, but on the other hand six of the incisors suggest the presence of species of the size of the large Phiomyidae of Rusinga and Songhor. Nine mandibles belong to the Cricetodontini, one represents a small Phiomydae similar to one of the forms from Songhor, one represents a Sciuridae, while three of the mandibles belong to a new genus, *Leakeymys ternani* nov. gen., nov. sp., to which genus and species I also provisionally attribute the skull fragment. (The collection also includes a mandible of a murine, but in this specimen the bone is not completely fossilized as it is in all the other material, and it is, therefore, I believe, an intrusive specimen which can be ignored at the present time.)

On the basis of a single molar, I would in the first instance have suggested that the new genus, *Leakeymys ternani*, was close to the living Gerbillidae represented by *Tatera* Lataste, but the complete dentition is very clearly distinguishable from this genus, and one can give the new genus the following diagnosis: The lower dentition is of the cricetodont pattern, but somewhat evolved with transverse crests generally resembling those seen in *Tatera* Lataste, but with more strongly cutting edges which are well separated from each other; there is no

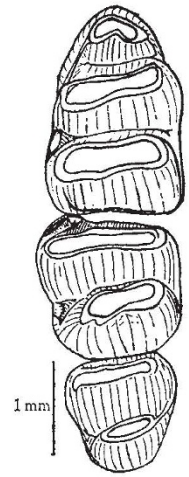

Fig. 1. *Leakeymys ternani* nov. gen., nov. sp. The lower left tooth of *FT* 15, 1963

trace of any longitudinal medium link: an external cingular crest unites the prelobe with the first full lobe of the lower first molar, as in *Mystromys* Wagner. The lower third molar has two lobes.

The upper teeth which are attributed to this form have an outline which is clearly that of a Cricetodont, and particularly the prelobe of the upper first molar. These teeth display strongly worn transverse crests which are, however, each clearly separated from the next.

It may therefore be said that the similarity which was first thought to be present with the Gerbillidae is not anything like so certain when we are faced with more complete specimens, and I prefer, therefore, for the moment, to treat the new genus as a member of the Cricetidae, which is as much evolved, but in a different direction, as *Myocricetodon*, Lavocat, while awaiting more complete knowledge of the upper dentition, which will enable us to fix this relationship more precisely.

The general appearance of this fauna, with *Cricetodon* Lartet, relatively common, and a new form unknown from either Songhor or Rusinga, agrees well with the prepikermian age which Dr. Leakey provisionally attributes to this site as a result of his preliminary examination of the ungulates. The new material does not, however, for the moment make it possible to confirm this age in a decisive manner.

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Correlation of Ultrastructure, Autofluorescence and Acid Phosphatase Activity in Granules isolated from Proximal Tubules of the Kidney of the Rat

SJÖSTRAND has shown that renal proximal tubule cells of several mammalian species contain autofluorescent granules with a characteristic segmental distribution within the proximal tubule[1]. Electron microscopic observations of proximal tubule cells have demonstrated several structurally different varieties of cytoplasmic granules and vacuoles[2-6]. Although none of these has been directly identified with the autofluorescent granules, I have observed that one type of dense granules has a very similar distribution along the proximal tubule[7]. Novikoff and Koenig have pointed out that acid phosphatase positive granules seen by light microscopy seem to correspond to the autofluorescent granules[8,9]. Direct information has now been obtained concerning the identity and ultrastructural properties of the autofluorescent granules by isolation of a fraction from rat kidneys in which they are highly concentrated.