

ORDER RODENTIA

FAMILY SCIURIDAE

Cryptopterus webbi new species¹

FIGURES 12-13

TYPE.—UF 12353; partial right mandible with third molar.

TYPE LOCALITY.—Haile XV A, T9S, R17E, Section 25, NW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Alachua County, Florida.

AGE.—Blancan

DIAGNOSIS.—Large sciuropterine; low-crowned, subovate M_3 not tapered posteriorly; protoconid connected to weak anteroconid; large anterolabial cingulum as in *Cryptopterus tobieni*; flat trigonid basin bearing "chaos" of low oblique ridges; strong metaconid and metaconid-metastylid crest; distinct entoconid; faint hypolophid; broad posterolophid bearing vestigial hypoconulid; posterolabial flexid absent.

DESCRIPTION.—The unique flying-squirrel specimen from Haile XV A consists of the posterior part of the right mandible bearing a moderately-worn third molar. Much of the ascending ramus, especially the condyle, is well preserved. The distance between the last molar and the condyle is about 15 mm. A large dental foramen lies 6.1 mm posterior to the last molar. The angular region is massive, concave lingually, and descends to a depth of more than 12 mm below the alveolar level, at which point it is broken. The coronoid region is also broken.

The third molar measures 4.91 mm in length, 3.70 mm maximum width across the metaconid and protoconid, and 3.29 mm posterior width across the entoconid and hypoconid. This is by far the largest flying squirrel in the New World, rivaling the extinct Eurasian species of *Cryptopterus* and *Petaurista* and some living Asian species of *Petaurista*.

The Haile XV A molar has a subovate outline and is only slightly tapered toward the posterior end. This readily distinguishes it from specimens of *Miopetaurista* and *Pliopetaurista*, in which the posterior end of the tooth tends to be long and narrow. The crown is low, the protoconid rises only 1.1 mm above the crown base; it thus contrasts with most species of *Petaurista* and especially with *Eupetaurus* (McKenna 1962).

On the labial side of the molar the strong protoconid and hypoconid are separated by a moderately well-developed mesoconid. The mesoconid is more robust than in *Pliopetaurista* and does not produce a labial spur, such as Sulimski (1964) noted in the specimens from Wéze, Poland. The protoconid is joined to a small anteroconid by a short, anteriorly curved crest, and thence weakly to the prominent metaconid. The weak anteroconid does not extend toward the labial wall of the molar as in

¹ Named for Professor S. David Webb in honor of his contributions to the vertebrate paleontology of Florida.