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#### RANGE EXTENSION OF *Rattus exulans* IN SOUTH ASIA

The little Burmese rat (*Rattus exulans concolor*) ranges from Burma, Thailand and the Malay Archipelago east to the Pacific islands and weighs about 36 g (J.J. Marshall, 1972. Rats and Mice of Thailand. In : B. Lekagul and J. McNeely, *Mammals of Thailand*). Formerly the western range limit was considered in Burma, west of the Chin Win River (J.N. Ellerman, 1961. *The Fauna of India, Including Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon*, Vol. 3 *Rodentia*, M.L. Roonwal (ed.). Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta).

As part of a country-wide survey of rodents in Bangladesh, intensive collecting was initiated in November 1978. On 12 January 1979 a female *Rattus exulans concolor* was trapped from a house in Daeca. Two females were obtained on 15 March from a thatched hut 1 km north of Laksham, Comilla District and two serotal males were trapped 7 km south of Chandpur. The captures extend the species known range approximately 100 km west of the Chin Win River to central Bangladesh.

Measurements in mm for the Daeca specimen are : total length (TL) 235, tail (TAL) 129, hindfoot (HF) 27, and the ear (E) 17. The female had a perforate vagina and weighed 39 g. Measurements from the Laksham specimens (2 females) were TL 265 and 235, TAL 145 and 131, HF both 23, and E 17 and 18. A 35 g female had 5 embryos with a crown-rump length of 22 while the second weighed 15 g and had a perforate vagina.

A specimen from the Laksham locality was deposited in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. The remainder are in the Vertebrate Pest Division collection, Joydeipur, Bangladesh.

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