|  |  |  |  | mm. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Teeth, horizontal length of $I^2$ | ... | ... | | 1·5 |
| ,,   height of *Canine* ... | ... | ... | | 2·3 |
| ,,   length of $P^4$ | ... | ... | | 3·2 |
| ,,   length of $M^{1-3}$ | ... | ... | | 11·4 |
| ,,   diastema of $I^3$ and $C$. | ... | ... | | 3·7 |
| ,,   ,,    $C.$ and $P^1$ | ... | ... | | 2·8 |
| ,,   ,,    $P^1$ and $P^3$ | ... | ... | | 1·0 |
| ,,   length of lower $I^1$ ... | ... | ... | | 9·8 |

It is interesting to notice that the structure of the tail corresponds with the habits of the animals ; thus, in *P. herbertensis*, which ascends the highest trees, the lower surface is naked for a greater portion of its length and is roughened so as to afford a secure grip of the topmost wind-swayed branches.    In its more lowly habit, *P. colletti* avoids such positions, and has therefore less need of special adaptation.

It may be mentioned that *P. mongon*, De Vis,[*] of which we hold co-types from the describer, exhibits none of the characters here sought to be emphasised, and except in the markings does not differ from typical examples of *P. herbertensis*, as previously determined.

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# THE NEST OR DREY OF THE RING-TAILED OPOSSUM,
## *(PSEUDOCHIRUS PEREGRINUS,* BODD*).*

### By EDGAR R. WAITE, F.L.S., Zoologist.

#### (Plate xix.)

ONE of the most peculiar and interesting habits of the Ring-tailed Opossum *(Pseudochirus peregrinus*, Bodd), is that of making a nest or drey.    Although well-known, but little appears to have been written on the subject beyond the notice that it is not unlike that of the European Squirrel.

I as often found the drey of this latter animal in a hole in a tree as among the branches, a situation never utilised by the Opossum.    The nest of the Marsupial may be constructed either in a fork or upon a platform of interlaced twigs.    A thick bush is more favoured than a tree, but almost any growth, if sufficiently dense, may be made use of : the Lilly Pilly *(Eugenia)*, offers a congenial retreat, as does also the Tea Tree *(Melaleuca)*, its long strips of loose bark being frequently woven into the nest.    The native "Oaks" *(Casuarina)*, and the Wattles *(Acacia)*, are further favourites.    Preference is shown for the neighbourhood of water.

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[*] De Vis—Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales (2) i., 1887, p. 1130.