

**A NEW RACE OF THE STRIATED SCOPS OWL,
OTUS BRUCEI (HOME), FROM WEST ASIA**

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In the course of my studies on the Scops owl (*Otus*), I found that the populations of *Otus brucei* (Hume)¹ from the Middle East differ sufficiently from those of Western India to justify subspecific recognition. I propose to name it as—

***Otus brucei exiguus*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—B.N.H.S.² No. 11947 ; adult male ; Bagdad, Iraq ; July 1921 ; Cox Cheesman collection.

Diagnosis.—Compared with *Otus b. brucei* of Bombay State, it is smaller and darker with broader central streaks on upper and lower plumage.

Measurements—

		Wing	Tail	Bill from skull
The Type of <i>O.b. exiguus</i>	♂	148	74	19
Other specimens of Iraq, Iran, Baluchistan	2♂	152, 156	71, 73.5	19, 20
	1♀	154	76	20
<i>O.b. brucei</i> (Gilgit and Bombay State)	2♂	158, 164	77, 80	19, 20
	3♀	163, 165, 165	77.5, 81, 82	20, 20, 21.5

Range.—Iraq, Iran, and Baluchistan.

There is a single specimen from Pamir in the Indian Museum collection which I am unable to separate from *O.b. exiguus*. However, more specimens are needed to be examined before we come to any conclusion as to correct placing of the Pamir populations.

¹I do not agree with Meinertzhagen [(*Bull. Brit. orn. Cl.* LXIX (1), p. 165 (1949)], in considering *O. brucei* (Hume), as a race of *O. scops* (Linn.).

²Stands for Bombay Natural History Society.

Remarks.—The more important distinguishing characters of the two races of *Otus brucei* may be summarized as follows :—

	<i>O. b. brucei</i>	<i>O. b. exiguus</i>
Colour of the ruff	Pale buff. Feathers narrowly edged with dark brown.	Grey. Feathers broadly tipped.
Colour of the back	Pale earthy brown with nearly obsolete dusky cross vermiculation. Central narrow shaft stripe on each feather less prominent.	Dark isabelline with darker cross vermiculation. Central shaft stripe of each feather more prominent.
Colour of breast and abdomen	Fulvous white with a narrow, central, dark brown shaft stripe on each feather.	Grey with a broad, central, clove brown shaft stripe on each feather.
Colour of scapulars	Buff.	White.

I am grateful to the authorities of the Bombay Natural History Society for the loan of some material for my study and for allowing me to describe a specimen from their collection.