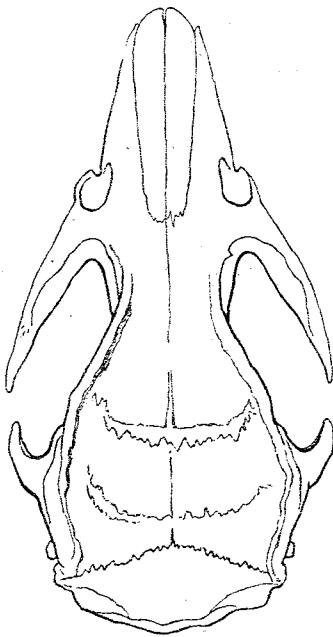


Brown Rat (*Mus decumanus*), which is quite different. If therefore the new rat is a mere variety of either of the two species which have been long known as members of the British mammalian fauna, and which have always been considered specifically distinct, it must be deemed a variety of *Mus rattus*; but I claim for it distinctive characters separating it from that rat, quite as marked as those which distinguish the Brown from the old English Black Rat. Indeed *Mus decumanus* more nearly resembles *Mus rattus* than does the new rat. It was suggested to me, at the time I exhibited the living specimens, that an appeal must be made to the cranial characters of each, before the distinctness and the degree of distinctness between the two could be established. The result of this investigation I now give to the Society.

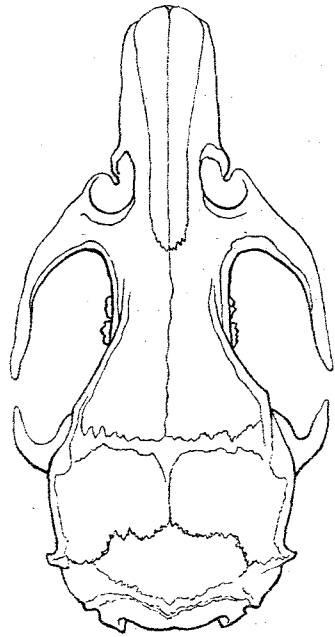
On the table are the skulls of the identical rats that were formerly exhibited—two adult males; and I have also some enlarged outline drawings (from which the accompanying woodcuts were taken) showing the salient peculiarities of each cranium. The

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Top view of Cranium of Snake-Rat.  
Enlarged two diameters.



Top view of Cranium of *Mus rattus*.  
Enlarged two diameters.