



Fig. 1.—Karyotype of a female *Gerbillus pyramidum* from M'Boro, Senegal.

mastoid components of the auditory bullae are distinctly less voluminous in *G. pyramidum*, the anterior end of the basio-occipital contacts the medial walls of both tympanic bullae and is relatively narrower in the Algeria-Morocco sample; the posterior palatine foramina are shorter and more constricted; the nasal-frontal bone contact is broad in *G. pyramidum* and narrow in the Algeria-Morocco sample.”

This gerbil, whose chromosomes are nearly all metacentrics, and whose karyotype, the first known

south of the Sahara, is homogenous with the other populations of *Gerbillus pyramidum* from Africa, seems to be particularly closely allied with the specimens from Morocco. A hypothesis is that these individuals have been derived from a single ancient population that existed throughout the Sahara; however the communication is now broken, as it is for *Mastomys* (Tranier, 1974). An extensive collection of *Gerbillus* from this area and other similar but distant areas would allow completion of this study.

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