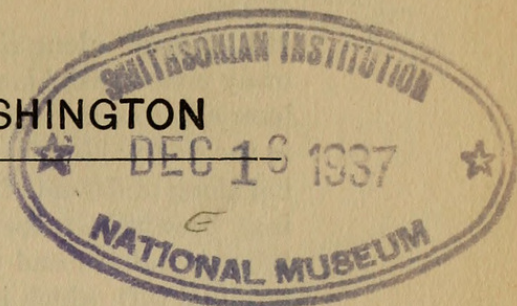


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW KANGAROO RAT FROM SOUTHWESTERN
ARIZONA.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

A review of the kangaroo rats of the *Dipodomys merriami* group in Arizona has led to the conclusion that specimens from the southwestern desert region warrant segregation as a geographic race. Some of these were collected as long ago as 1894 by Mearns and Holzner in connection with the work of the International Boundary Commission, but it was not until additional material was obtained from various localities that distinction became readily apparent.

***Dipodomys merriami regillus*, subsp. nov.**

SOUTHWESTERN DESERT KANGAROO RAT.

Type.—From Tule Well, Tule Desert between Cabeza Prieta Mountains and Tule Mountains, Yuma County, Arizona (altitude 1,000 feet). No. 203017, ♂ young adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by E. A. Goldman, December 4, 1913. Original number 22345.

Distribution.—Low desert plains of southwestern Arizona, including the lower part of the Gila River Valley and adjoining parts of Sonora, from the Colorado River east to Quitovaquito, Arizona, and Sonoyta, Sonora, intergrading to the east and north with *Dipodomys merriami merriami*.

General characters.—Distinguished by vivid buff coloration, the upper parts only slightly shaded by dark hairs. Most closely resembling *Dipodomys merriami arenivagus* of San Felipe, Lower California, but general tone of upper parts deeper and richer, near citrine buff (Ridgway, 1912), instead of pinkish buff; tail more dusky along under side; sides of head, including orbital areas, less extensively white; cranial details slightly different. Upper parts distinctly deeper and richer buff than in typical *Dipodomys merriami simiolus* of southeastern California. Similar in general to *D. m. merriami* of central Arizona but paler, the upper parts much less extensively mixed with black; dark caudal stripes above and below much lighter-brownish instead of blackish; blackish facial markings less distinct.

Color.—*Type* (winter pelage): Upper parts near citrine buff (Ridgway,

1912), purest along sides, the top of head and back thinly and inconspicuously mixed with black; under parts, fore limbs, hip stripes, tail at extreme base all around, postauricular and supraorbital spots pure white, as usual in the group; hind feet white above, a narrow brownish median line extending along under side from heels to base of toes, the toes white; facial markings brownish, rather narrow and indistinct; tail beyond extreme base brownish above and below, becoming white abruptly along sides to near terminal tuft, which is brownish all around. Summer pelages are similar, but the tendency is toward still brighter buffy coloration.

Skull.—Closely resembling that of *simiolus*. Very similar to that of typical *merriami*, many skulls being indistinguishable, but the interparietal and ascending branches of supraoccipital tend to be narrower, more depressed between mastoids. Also very similar to that of *arenivagus*, but mastoids usually smaller.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 234 mm.; tail vertebrae, 141; hind foot, 36. Four adult topotypes: 249 (245–256); 149 (146–153); 37.5 (37.5–38). *Skull* (type): Occipitonasal length, 33.4; greatest breadth (between outer sides of auditory bullae), 22.3; breadth across maxillary arches, 18.5; length of nasals, 12.5; width of nasals (in front of incisors), 2.8; least width of supraoccipital (near interparietal), 1.6; maxillary toothrow, 4.5.

Remarks.—*Dipodomys m. regillus* approaches *D. m. arenivagus* in color and the two probably intergrade in the delta region of the Colorado River. Typical examples, however, are readily distinguished. Specimens from the general region have sometimes been referred to *simiolus*, but contrast still more strongly with that form in intensity of color tone.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 103, as follows:
Arizona: Ajo (10 miles north), 3; Dome (3 miles east), 2; Gadsden (4 miles southeast), 4; Quitovaquito, 40; Tinajas Altas, southern end of Gila Mountains, Yuma County, 24; Tule Tank (near Mexican boundary), Yuma County, 1; Tule Well (type locality), 9; Wellton, 8; Yuma, 2.
Sonora: Colorado River, 10 miles south of U. S. boundary, 2; Sonoyta, 8.



Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1937. "A new kangaroo rat from southwestern Arizona." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 50, 75–76.

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