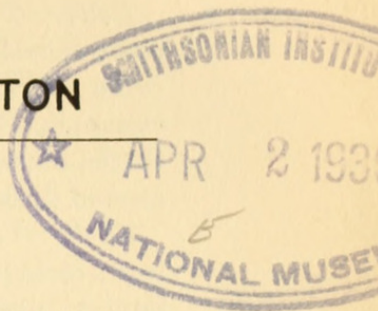


PROCEEDINGS
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW BROWN MOUSE OF THE GENUS *SCOTINOMYS*
FROM MEXICO.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

The small *Akodon*-like mice of the genus *Scotinomys* form one of the groups characterizing the faunal subdivision known as the Central American Subregion. A single specimen from Ocuilapa, western Chiapas, collected many years ago was provisionally referred to *Scotinomys teguina* Alston, from Coban, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, of which no typical material was available for study. On the recent Leon Mandel Guatemala Expedition, however, three topotypes of this little known species taken for the Field Museum of Natural History afford a satisfactory basis for the determination of characters. Comparisons now indicate that the Chiapas animal represents a new subspecies which is here described. For the opportunity to examine the topotypes of *S. teguina* I am grateful to Dr. W. H. Osgood and Mr. C. C. Sanborn of the Field Museum of Natural History.

Scotinomys teguina subnubilus, subsp. nov.

CHIAPAS BROWN MOUSE.

Type.—From Ocuilapa, 10 miles northwest of Ocozucua and about 25 miles west of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico (altitude 3,500 feet); No. 76353, ♂ adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection); collected by Nelson and Goldman, August 22, 1895; original number 8371.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality—in the Chiapas River Valley, western Chiapas; probably intergrading to the eastward with *Scotinomys teguina teguina*.

General characters.—Similar to *S. t. teguina* of Coban, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, but smaller; color darker; skull more slender and differing in detail. Similar in size to *Scotinomys teguina irazu*, but decidedly darker, and cranial characters distinctive.

Color.—*Type*: Upper parts in general blackish, finely and inconspicuously mixed with rusty, producing a blackish brown effect except on the rump where the black is strongly predominant; under parts overlaid with cinnamon (Ridgway, 1912), the basal tone near slate color; forearms and thighs blackish; ears thinly clothed with blackish hairs; feet and tail all around dusky.

Skull.—Very similar to that of *S. t. teguina* but lighter in general structure; rostrum narrower and slightly shallower; nasals extending slightly farther posteriorly between premaxillae; zygomatic plate narrower; incisive foramina less extended posteriorly (ending in anterior plane of first upper molars instead of passing beyond this plane as in *teguina*); dentition about the same. Size and general form about as in *S. t. irazu*, but frontal region less depressed near the median line anteriorly; maxillary arm of zygoma broader near line of contact with frontals (as viewed from above); nasals longer, extending farther posteriorly beyond ends of premaxillae; supraoccipital projecting farther posteriorly over foramen magnum.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 120 mm.; tail vertebrae, 49; hind foot, 19. Average of three adult topotypes of *S. t. teguina* used for comparison: 133 (131–138); 55 (52–58); 18.3 (18–19). *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 20.8; condylobasal length, 20; greatest breadth of braincase (across parietals), 10.5; zygomatic breadth, 11.3; interorbital constriction, 4.4; length of nasals, 8.7; length of incisive foramina, 3.7; length of palatal bridge, 4.2; maxillary toothrow (alveoli), 3.8.

Remarks.—The known forms of *Scotinomys* are all closely allied and probably referable to a single species. The recording of *S. t. subnubilus* extends the known range of the genus west into southern Mexico. The new form, based on a single specimen, is distinguished from *Scotinomys teguina rufoniger* recently described by Sanborn from the mountains west of San Pedro, northwestern Honduras, by smaller size and more delicate structure. It appears to have a range at a lower elevation (3,500 feet) than has hitherto been recorded for the genus which, represented by *S. xerampelinus* on the Volcan de Chiriqui, western Panama, reaches an altitude of 10,300 feet.



Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1935. "A new brown mouse of the genus *Scotinomys* from Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 48, 141–142.

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