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A NEW WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE FROM MEXICO.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

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The accumulation of additional specimens of the *Peromyscus leucopus* group, from Mexico, has indicated the desirability of recognizing as a regional race material hitherto assigned to neighboring forms. The new race inhabits the tropical lowlands of Vera Cruz and adjoining states, mainly in the Humid Lower Tropical Zone, extending along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico from southern Tamaulipas to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It may be known by the following description:

*Peromyscus leucopus incensus*, subsp. nov.

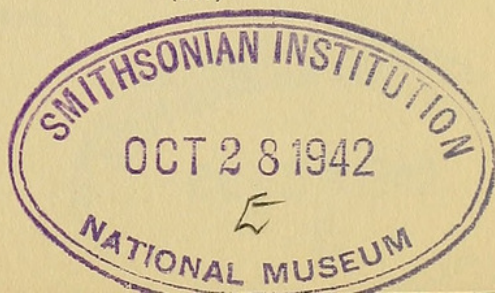
VERA CRUZ WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE.

*Type*.—From Metaltoyuca, Puebla, Mexico (altitude 800 feet). No. 93069, ♀ adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Surveys collection); collected by E. A. Goldman, January 28, 1898. Original number 12107.

*Distribution*.—Tropical lowlands, bordering the steep eastern slope of the interior plateau, from southern Tamaulipas (Alta Mira) and eastern San Luis Potosi south through eastern Puebla to southern Vera Cruz and northeastern Oaxaca (Guichicovi).

*General characters*.—A tropical subspecies with upper parts suffused with "cinnamon buff" (Ridgway, 1912). Closely allied to *Peromyscus leucopus mesomelas* of the adjoining mountainous interior near Orizaba and Jalapa, Vera Cruz; color of the upper parts much less blackish, more strongly suffused with "cinnamon buff." Similar to *Peromyscus leucopus texanus* of Texas, and *Peromyscus leucopus affinis* of the southern side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, but upper parts distinctly darker, less grayish, more suffused with "cinnamon buff" than either. Differs from *Peromyscus leucopus castaneus* of Campeche in larger size, and somewhat darker general coloration, with brighter buff suffusion.

*Color*.—*Type* (winter pelage): Upper parts in general near "cinnamon buff," mixed with black, the buff most distinct along the abrupt line of demarcation between upper and under parts, and the black predominating along median line of dorsum; outer sides of forearms and thighs "dark





grayish brown"; under parts overlaid with dull white; ears blackish; feet whitish; tail scantily haired, light brownish above, dull whitish below. In other specimens the upper parts vary to "cinnamon" in admixture, and the ears may be faintly edged with white. In three of the 15 examples from the type locality very small "pinkish cinnamon" pectoral spots are present.

*Skull*.—About as in *texanus* and *mesomelas*; somewhat smaller and lighter than in *affinis*; skull larger than that of *castaneus*, with more elongated rostrum; premaxillae and nasals more nearly conterminous posteriorly (premaxillae not reaching ends of nasals in *castaneus*).

*Measurements*.—*Type*: Total length, 178 mm.; tail vertebrae, 76; hind foot, 23.5. Average of 10 adult topotypes: Total length, 171.6 (158–185); tail vertebrae, 76.4 (72–81); hind foot, 22.7 (21.5–24.5). *Skull* (type and an adult male topotype, respectively): Occipitonasal length, 26.6, 26.2; condylobasal length, 24.4, 26.3; zygomatic breadth, 14.2, 13.3; interorbital constriction, 4.6, 4.5; length of nasals, 11.1, 10.4; length of incisive foramina, 4.4, 4.7; length of palatal bridge, 4.6, 4.2; maxillary tooth row, 3.5, 3.7.

*Remarks*.—The marked contrast in color between *incensus* and *mesomelas*, which occur near together, is no doubt due to widely differing environmental conditions. The former inhabits the coastal lowlands mainly humid but varying to rather arid in character, while the latter is restricted to the cloud-forested mountains at higher elevations along the eastern flank of the interior plateau.

*Specimens examined*.—Total number, 38, as follows:

Oaxaca: San Juan Guichicovi, 1.

Puebla: Metaltoyuca (type locality), 15.

San Luis Potosi: Valles, 4.

Tamaulipas: Alta Mira, 15 (1 skin without skull).

Vera Cruz: Otatitlan, 2 (1 skin without skull); San Andres Tuxtla, 1.



Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1942. "A new white-footed mouse from Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 55, 157–158.

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