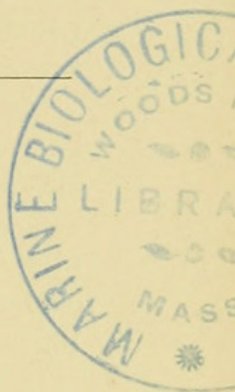


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## FOUR NEW RODENTS FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.



Among the California mammals remaining undescribed in the collection of the Biological Survey are two Pocket Gophers from the Sierra foothills, and two Meadow Mice—one, a representative of the *mordax* group, from the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California, the other, a member of the subgenus *Chilotus*, from South Yolla Bolly Mountain, a high summit of the inner Coast Range west of the Sacramento Valley. The new forms may be known from the following descriptions:

***Microtus mordax bernardinus*** subsp. nov.

*Type* from Dry Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California (altitude 9,000 feet, at north base San Gorgonio Peak). No. 150,632, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. ♂ ad. Collected August 21, 1907, by Vernon Bailey. Original No. 8749.

*Characters*.—Similar externally to *M. mordax*.

*Cranial characters*.—Skull, contrasted with that of *mordax*, somewhat heavier and more angular; zygomata stronger and more spreading, nasals longer, broader anteriorly; frontal anteriorly more elevated and broader, with nasal and zygomatic processes (especially the latter) much more strongly developed.

*Measurements of type specimen* (in flesh).—Total length, 180 mm.; tail vertebræ, 56; hind foot, 21. ✕

*Remarks*.—The Biological Survey has specimens of this form collected by Frank Stephens in August, 1903, on the ridge south of Bear Lake (altitude 7,800 feet), and from the same locality collected by Vernon Bailey in August, 1907, in addition to those from the type locality at north base of San Gorgonio Peak (also known as Grayback). I have seen two additional specimens, collected by Joseph Grinnell, from South Fork Santa Ana River.

***Microtus oregoni adocetus*** subsp. nov.

*Type* from South Yolla Bolly Mountain, California. No. 137,995, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. ♂ ad. Collected July 30, 1905, by A. S. Bunnell. Original No. 135.



*Characters*.—Size large for a *Chilotus*; ears small and nearly concealed in the fur; color of upperparts sepia or reddish sepia brown, very much paler than *oregoni*; underparts dull buffy, the dark underfur showing through; tail dark brownish, paler below; feet whitish.

*Cranial characters*.—Skull similar to that of *oregoni* but larger and heavier, with longer rostrum, larger and less depressed nasals, much larger anterior nares, and larger teeth.

*Measurements*.—Type specimen: Total length, 172; tail vertebrae, 49; hind foot, 21. Cranial measurements: Basal length, 24.5; basilar length of Hensel, 23.5; zygomatic breadth, 16; palatal length (notch to incisors), 13.

***Thomomys mewa* sp. nov.\***

*Type* from Raymond, Madera County, California. No. 133,183, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. ♂ ad. Collected June 28, 1904, by N. Hollister. Original No. 908.

*Characters*.—Not closely related to any known species. Size rather small; has two marked and widely different pelages; summer pelage red above and below, varying from fulvous to almost ferruginous; winter pelage dusky (much darker than typical *bottæ*), overlaid by a light peppery wash of russet brown; underparts in winter dark plumbeous strongly washed with buffy ochraceous.

*Cranial characters*.—Skull peculiar; smaller than either *bottæ* or *pascalis* and slightly larger than *navus*—from which latter it differs in such radical characters as not to require comparison (*navus* having the nasals exceedingly small and short, the zygomata widely spreading *posteriorly*, the upper incisors projecting strongly forward). Nasals rather long and *straight-sided* as in *pascalis* (not narrowed posteriorly and expanded anteriorly as in *bottæ*); zygomata rather squarely spreading, with strongly marked and thickened anterior angle; bullæ and premaxillæ normal, as in *bottæ*; temporal impressions nearly parallel and 4–5 mm. apart in adult males; interparietal subquadrate, convex anteriorly. The type specimen is in the molt and the new red pelage which covers all but the rump is still short and paler than the full summer pelage.

*Measurements*.—Total length, 225; tail vertebrae, 60; hind foot, 27.

*Range*.—The Upper Sonoran or Digger Pine belt along the west flank of the Sierra from northern Tuolumne County south to Kern Valley.

***Thomomys alpinus awahnee*† subsp. nov.**

*Type* from Yosemite Valley, California. No. 133,076, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. ♀ ad. Collected June 14, 1904, by N. Hollister. Original No. 870.

*Characters*.—Size rather small; similar in general to *alpinus* but smaller, with decidedly smaller fore claws and skull.

\* Named from the Mewa Indians, within whose territory the type region lies.

† Named from Ahwahnee, the original Indian name of Yosemite Valley; used also for the band or subtribe inhabiting the valley.



*Color*.—Muzzle and inner side of opening of cheek pouches usually dusky; winter pelage dusky, lightly washed with sepia brown, sometimes becoming ochraceous on sides of neck; summer pelage varying from dull russet brown to almost ochraceous, brightest on sides of neck and (less so) on flanks.

*Cranial characters*.—Skull resembling that of *alpinus* but much smaller; nasals small and *narrow anteriorly*, with sides nearly parallel; interparietal broader than long; zygomata not broadly spreading, broadest posteriorly; bullæ *small* and smoothly rounded, lacking the antero-external prominence of *alpinus*; occiput bulging.

*Measurements*.—Typespecimen, ♀ ad.: Total length, 194; tail vertebræ, 54; hind foot, 28. An adult male from type locality: Total length, 194; tail vertebræ, 69; hind foot, 27.



Merriam, C. Hart. 1908. "Four new rodents from California." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 21, 145–147.

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