MUS MICHIGANENSIS.

MICHIGAN MOUSE.

M. Buccis flavis, corpore supra fusco-canescente, subtus albido.

CHARACTERS.

Cheeks yellow, body light greyish-brown above, whitish beneath.

SYNONYME.

MUS MICHIGANENSIS.—Aud. and Bach, Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., vol. viii., pt. ii., p. 304.

DESCRIPTION.

The head is of moderate size at base, gradually tapering to a sharp-pointed nose. The eyes, which appear to be rather smaller than those of the white-footed mouse, are placed farther forward. Whiskers the length of the head. The ears on both surfaces are so sparingly clothed with short hairs as, without close examination, to appear naked. Legs short and slender, covered with hair to the extremities of the toes. Soles naked. On each fore-foot there are four toes, with a rudimental thumb, protected by short but rather sharp nails. The hind-feet are pendactylous. The tail, which is round, is clothed with rather short hairs. Mammæ, six pectoral and four abdominal. The fur on the whole body is very short and smooth.

COLOUR.

The incisors, which are small, are yellow. The whiskers are nearly all white; a few immediately below and above the eyes being black. On the cheeks there is a line of yellowish fawn colour running along the sides to the neck. The feet, nails, ears, and tail are light brown. The hairs on the upper surface are light plumbeous at the roots, and tipped with light brown and black. On the throat, inner surface of the thighs, and on the

abdomen, they are yellowish white. There is no distinct line of demarcation between the colours of the back and under surface, nor does the white extend along the sides, as in the white-footed mouse.

DIMENSIONS.

							Inches.	Lines.
Length of head and body,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
" of tail, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
" of tarsus, -	-	-	-	-	-	-		5
Height of ear, -	-	-	-	-	-	-		4

GENERAL REMARKS.

This species bears some resemblance in size and colour, both to the common house mouse (*M. musculus*) and the white-footed mouse (*M. leucopus*). The colour on the back resembles the former, and on the under surface the latter. Its tail is considerably shorter than either, and its ears less naked and much smaller than those of *M. leucopus*. Neither has it the white feet so characteristic of that species.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Mus michiganensis, Michigan Mouse." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 326–327.
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