PEROGNATHUS PENICILLATUS.—WOODHOUSE.

TUFT-TAILED POUCHED RAT.

CHARACTERS.

Above yellowish brown, beneath white ; tail longer than the head and body, penicillate, with bright brown hair.

SYNONYME.

PEROGNATHUS PENICILLATUS.—Woodhouse, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phil., Dec., 1852, p. 200.

DESCRIPTION.

Head of moderate size, not easily distinguished from the neck ; incisors small and partially exposed, upper ones sulcate in the middle. Nose small and rather pointed, extending some distance beyond the incisors ; whiskers light brown, irregularly mixed with black ; eyes dark brown, and of moderate size ; ears nearly round and moderate, almost naked anteriorly, and covered posteriorly with fine brown fur ; the tragus and anti-tragus are quite prominent. The external meatus is protected by a tuft of short, black bristles extending across the ear. Tail about one inch and a quarter longer than the head and body, round, gradually tapering, and covered with hair ; on the superior and middle portion commences a row of long, silky hairs, which gradually increase in width until they form a tuft at the end. Fore legs short, feet small, with four well developed toes and a short thumb, which is armed with a nail ; palms naked. Hind legs and feet long, having five toes, terminated by nails. Feet and toes covered with fine short fur ; soles naked. The fur longer on the back than on the belly ; it is thick, soft, and silky.

COLOUR.

Incisors yellow, top of head and back dark yellowish brown, lighter on the sides ; fur at base light ash colour. Throat, belly, vent, fore legs, and inner portions of thighs white. The white commences at the nostrils, and forms a well marked line to the thighs, and extending down to the heel,

leaving the front of thigh white, the remainder and outer portion light yellowish brown; feet white. Under portion of tail white, above dark brown; the long hair of the tail is a rich brown.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.
Length from tip of nose to root of tail, - - - -	3.5
" of tail (vertebræ), - - - -	3.7
" " ear anterior, - - - -	.3
" " whiskers, - - - -	1.7
" " os calcis, middle toe nail, - - - -	1.
Distance from anterior angle of orbit to tip of nose, -	.6½

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

New Mexico, west of Rio Grande.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Of the habits of this animal I know but little. The specimen in my possession is a male, and was procured in the San Francisco Mountain, New Mexico. (WOODHOUSE.)

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Perognathus penicillatus, Tuft-tailed Pouched Rat." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 298–299.
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