SPERMOPHILUS HARRISII.—AUD. and BACH.

HARRIS'S SPERMOPHILE, OR MARMOT SQUIRREL.

PLATE CLIV.—FIG. 1.

S. Magnitudine *Tamiae Lysteri*; strigis duobus albis dorsalibus ab humeris ad femora; fronte rufo-canesciente, colle et ventre cinereis-albis, dorso fulvo-cinereo; cauda disticha.

CHARACTERS.

Size of *Tamias Lysteri*; a narrow white stripe on each side of the back, from the shoulder to the thighs; forehead reddish-grey; neck ashy-white running into yellowish iron-grey on the back; under surface ashy white; tail distichous.

DESCRIPTION.

Head small and delicate; neck, rather long; body slender; legs rather long, a few long hairs growing out and fringing the hind parts of the fore legs; the cheek pouches appear rather small in the dried specimen; ears thinly clothed on both surfaces with short adpressed hairs; short, somewhat triangular, and rather acute at the tips; tail of moderate length, depressed at base, with the hairs growing from the side, giving it a decidedly distichous appearance; the teeth resemble those of *T. Lysteri*; are rather small, and the lower incisors are slightly curved.

Whiskers not numerous, reaching the ear; hairs on the back very short, somewhat coarse, but lying very smoothly, giving the animal a glossy appearance; on the under surface they are coarse and rigid. There are five toes on each foot; on the fore-feet a small tubercle in place of a thumb, with a blunt nail; second nail from the thumb longest, as in the rest of the spermophili; on the hind feet the middle toes are longest, the two on each side being of nearly equal length, the outer considerably shorter, and the inner shortest; claws slightly compressed, and a little curved; feet clothed with short hairs, but which do not conceal the nails; the eyes are of moderate size, and are placed midway between the point of the nose and the root of the ear; soles of feet tuberculated and naked, except a few hairs between the toes.

COLOUR.

Incisors dingy yellow ; whiskers and nails black ; back and sides minutely speckled with white, on a yellowish-brown ground ; the hairs are dark-brown at the roots, then white, then black, and the tips brownish-white, with a tinge of yellow ; on the nose and forehead, the speckled appearance of the back is superseded by a rufous tint ; between the ears, on the neck, and a little downwards, towards the legs, greyish-white is the prevailing color ; a narrow white stripe, rising from behind the shoulder, and running along the side of the back to the middle of the hips, there loses itself in the general colour of the body ; around the eye, throat, chin, inner surface of legs, and whole under surface of body, whitish, with a few black hairs interspersed ; a tinge of brownish-red on the outer surface of the fore legs is more strongly red on the thighs ; feet and outer surface of legs yellowish white.

The hairs of the tail are whitish at the roots, twice annulated with black, and tipped with white.

There is a line of whitish yellow on the flanks, separating the colour of the back and sides from the under surface distinctly, and extending along beneath the reddish brown tint on the thighs, where it becomes a deeper yellow.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.
Length of head and body - - - - -	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
“ tail (vertebræ) - - - - -	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
“ “ to end of hair - - - - -	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
From tarsus to end of longest claw - - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Length of fore leg from the shoulder - - - - -	2
“ hind leg from the thighs - - - - -	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Breadth of tail, when distichously arranged - - - - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Height of ear (posteriorly) - - - - -	$\frac{1}{8}$
Longest claw on the fore foot - - - - -	$\frac{1}{8}$

HABITS.

There is nothing to be said by us about the habits of this species, as it has not been observed, so far as we know, since our specimen was procured, and we have not even a knowledge of the precise locality in which it was obtained by Mr. J. K. TOWNSEND, who gave the specimen to our esteemed friend, EDWARD HARRIS, Esq., from whom we received it some time since, and with whose name we have honoured this pretty little animal.

Fig 1

Fig 2

Drawn from Nature by J.W. Audubon.

On Stone by Wm E. Hitchcock

Lith. Printed & Col^d by J.T. Bowen, Phil

Fig 1. Harris' Marmot-Squirrel. Fig 2. California Meadow-Mouse

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Probably west of the Rocky Mountains, on the route followed by Messrs. NUTTALL and TOWNSEND, in their journey to Oregon overland.

GENERAL REMARKS.

This species bears a very slight resemblance to *Spermophilus lateralis* of SAY, but differs so widely from it that it is unnecessary to institute a close comparison. It is a smaller animal, the head and ears being diminutive compared with the latter; it has a single stripe of white on the sides of the back, whilst in *Lateralis* a broad white stripe is margined on each side by a stripe of black, giving it the appearance of having four black stripes on the back, while *S. Harrisii* has no black about the back or sides at all.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Spermophilus harrisii, Harris's Marmot Squirrel [Pl. CLIV]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 267–269. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322580>.

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