

OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW HARVEST MOUSE FROM MICHOACAN,
MEXICO

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In preparing a check-list of the mammals of the state of Michoacan we have had occasion to identify some harvest mice of the species *Reithrodontomys chrysopsis*, which species lives mostly on the upper slopes of the higher volcanoes of the southern edge of the table land of Mexico. In 1914 when Howell (N. Amer. Fauna No. 36) revised the genus *Reithrodontomys*, he had a total of only 27 specimens of the species *R. chrysopsis*. Twenty-five of these, including 7 from Mount Tancítaro, in Michoacán, he referred to the subspecies *R. c. chrysopsis*. From this westernmost record station of occurrence, J. S. Candy in 1940, and F. C. Wonder in 1941, obtained in all 22 specimens at elevations of 6000 to 11000 feet. This series shows well the variation with age and reveals, in comparison with topotypes of *Reithrodontomys chrysopsis chrysopsis* Merriam, from Mount Popocatepetl, that the animals on Mount Tancítaro pertain to an heretofore unnamed subspecies which may be characterized and named as follows:

***Reithrodontomys chrysopsis seclusus*, new subspecies**

Type.—Male, adult, skin and skull; no. 52114 Chicago Nat. Hist. Mus. (4th Hoogstroom Mexican Biol. Expedition); Mount Tancítaro, 7800 ft., Michoacán, Mexico; June 30, 1941; obtained by F. C. Wonder, original no. 1036.

Range.—Mount Tancítaro, Michoacán, 6000 to 11000 feet or higher.

Diagnosis.—Size small (see measurements); color near (14'j) Cinnamon-Brown (color terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Washington, D. C., 1912) on upper parts and sides; overlaid with blackish on back; in some specimens suggestion of Ochraceous-Tawny lateral line; braincase globular; upper molars with accessory cusps between main cusps.

Comparison.—From three January-taken topotypes of *R. c. chrysopsis*, *seclusus* differs as follows: Body, hind foot and ear shorter; color everywhere darker red, that is to say, nearer Cinnamon-Brown than Ochraceous-Tawny; skull averaging larger in every measurement taken except least interorbital constriction which is more; consistently smaller in basilar length, mastoid breadth, alveolar length of upper molar tooth-

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row and postpalatal length. Specimens of equal age, as judged by amount of wear on the first upper molar, were used in comparisons; the differences, therefore, are not ascribable to age.

Remarks.—Our topotypes of *R. c. chrysopsis* are in full winter (January) pelage whereas all the specimens of *R. c. seclusus* were taken in June and July. Therefore, the differences in color mentioned above may be of seasonal rather than geographic significance. The pelage of *seclusus* is the shorter and its tail is less heavily haired. The ears of *R. c. chrysopsis* are blackish whereas those of *seclusus* are reddish, and we doubt that this difference is seasonal. However this may be, the lesser size and cranial differences serve fully to permit of differentiating *seclusus* from *R. c. chrysopsis*. We have no specimens available of *R. c. tolucae*, *R. c. perotensis* or *R. c. orizabe* but of these subspecies, *tolucae* and *perotensis* are lighter-colored (instead of markedly darker) than *chrysopsis*, and *orizabe* was said in the original description to be of the same color as *chrysopsis*, but by Davis (Journ. Mamm., 25:394, 1944) to be a synonym of *R. c. perotensis*. *R. c. seclusus*, therefore, is the darkest of the four geographic races which now are recognized.

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Measurements, in millimeters, of topotypes of two subspecies of
Reithrodontomys chrysopsis

Number	Museum	Sex	Age	Total length	Length of tail	Length of hind foot (dry)	Length of ear from notch (dry)	Basilar length	Mastoid breadth	Interorbital constriction	Alveolar length of maxillary tooth-row	Postpalatal length
<i>R. c. seclusus</i> , Mt. Tancítaro, 7800 ft.												
51411	Chi.M.	♂	ad.	173	98	19.5	15.9	17.3	10.4	3.3	3.5	7.5
52114	Chi.M.	♂	ad.	173	100	19.1	14.1	17.0	10.5	3.3	3.6	7.3
52115	Chi.M.	♂	ad.	170	84	19.2	14.1	17.0	10.5	3.3	3.8	7.3
<i>R. c. chrysopsis</i> , Popocatepetl, 3450 mts.												
1681	B.V.R.	♂	ad.	173	95	19.9	17.5	17.8	10.8	3.1	3.9	7.9
1688	B.V.R.	♀	ad.	182	94	20.0	17.5	17.8	10.9	3.1	4.0	7.9
1684	B.V.R.	♀	s.ad.	185	---	21.0	16.0	18.0	10.8	3.2	4.0	7.9
17980	K.u.	♀	ad.	189	107	20.0	19.0	18.0	10.7	3.2	3.9	8.2

Specimens examined.—Twenty-two, all from Mount Tancítaro, Michoacán, distributed by altitude as follows: 6000 ft., 5; 7800 ft., 10; 10500 ft., 1; 11000 ft., 1; no altitude recorded on label, 5.

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