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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A NEW POCKET GOPHER (GENUS THOMOMYS) FROM WYOMING AND COLORADO ***

A New Pocket Gopher (Genus Thomomys) From Wyoming and Colorado

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BY

E. RAYMOND HALL

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A New Pocket Gopher (Genus Thomomys) from Wyoming and Colorado

[Pg 221]

By

E. RAYMOND HALL

Among small mammals accumulated, from Wyoming, in the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas, specimens of the wide-spread species *Thomomys talpoides* are abundantly represented. Subspecific names are available for most of these, but specimens from the Sierra Madre Mountain Range of Wyoming and Colorado prove upon comparison to pertain to an heretofore unnamed subspecies which may be described and named as follows:

***Thomomys talpoides meritus* new subspecies**

Type.—Male, adult, skull and skin, no. 25628 Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas; from 8 mi. N and 19-½ mi. E Savery, 8800 ft., Carbon County, Wyoming; obtained on July 19, 1948, by George M. Newton; original no. 4.

Range.—Sierra Madre Mountain Range of southern Wyoming and northern Colorado.

Diagnosis.—Size small (see measurements); color dark, upperparts in worn pelage of July darker than (near, *n*) Raw Umber (capitalized terms are of Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Washington, D. C., 1912) and in fresh pelage of August between (near, 16') Prout's Brown and Mummy Brown; skull small; relative to basilar length, skull narrow across rostrum, zygomata and mastoids; nasals short and posteriorly truncate; premaxillae extending behind nasals; temporal lines faint and divergent posteriorly.

Comparisons.—From *Thomomys talpoides rostralis* (North Platte River Valley, SW of Saratoga, Wyoming), the subspecies to the east and south, *T. t. meritus* differs in: Lesser size, darker color, smaller and slenderer skull. The slenderness is especially noticeable in the breadth across the zygomata, mastoids, and rostrum. From *Thomomys talpoides clusius* (topotypes), the subspecies to the north and west, *T. t. meritus* differs in: Color much darker; rostrum longer; skull narrower across mastoids and zygomata; tympanic, and also mastoid, bullae smaller. Resemblance to *T. t. clusius* is shown in the narrowness of the skull interorbitally and in the shortness of the tooth-row.

Remarks.—The specimens of *Thomomys* from Wyoming on which the name *T. t. meritus* is based were obtained by Mr. E. Lendell Cockrum and his associates with the thought that intergradation might be shown between *T. t. rostralis* to the east and *T. t. clusius* to the west. The animals showed instead, that there was a subspecies differing from each of the two mentioned subspecies in small size, dark color and slenderness of skull. Acknowledgment of assistance with field work is made to the Kansas University Endowment Association.

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Measurements.—Average and extreme measurements of seven adult males and five adult females, from the type locality, are as follows: Total length, ♂ 204 (193-226), ♀ 207 (193-210); length of tail, 56 (46-68), 56 (50-63); length of hind foot, 27.6 (26-30), 27.4 (27-28); basilar length, 30.7 (29.0-33.0), 30.1 (29.5-30.7); zygomatic breadth, 20.4 (18.9-21.6), 19.5 (18.8-20.0); least interorbital breadth, 6.2 (5.8-6.6), 6.1 (5.9-6.3); mastoidal breadth, 17.9 (16.9-18.5), 17.2 (16.7-17.6); length of nasals, 13.7 (12.4-14.7), 13.2 (12.8-13.9); breadth of rostrum, 7.0 (6.5-7.5), 6.9 (6.7-7.3); length of rostrum, 16.3 (15.3-17.5), 15.8 (15.3-16.1); alveolar length of maxillary tooth-row, 7.1 (6.9-7.3), 7.1 (6.8-7.5).

Specimens examined.—Total number 26 and unless otherwise indicated in the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas.

Wyoming.—*Carbon County*: Savery (8 mi. N and 19-½ mi. E, 8800 ft., 12; 7 mi. N and 17 mi. E, 8300 ft., 1; 6 mi. N and 12-½ mi. E, 8400 ft., 1; 6 mi. N and 13-½ mi. E, 8400 ft., 2; 6 mi. N and 14-½ mi. E, 8350 ft., 1; 5 mi. N and 3 mi. E, 6800 ft., 1; 4 mi. N and 8 mi. E, 7800 ft., 7300 ft., 3; 4 mi. N and 10 mi. E, 7800 ft., 3) 24.

Colorado—*Routt Co.*?: Elkhead Mts., 20 mi. SE Slater, 2 (U. S. B. S.).

Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Transmitted October 20, 1951.

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