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7. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *VANDELEURIA OLERACEA* IN A RURAL RESIDENTIAL HABITAT IN THE DESERT BIOME OF RAJASTHAN

During pest control estimation of rodent population in a village complex near Jodhpur (26°18'N — 73°01'E ; mean annual rainfall 366.0 mm), a living specimen of the long-tailed tree mouse, *Vandeleuria oleracea* was captured inside a *Kuchha* hut, feeding upon jaggery in a container in the kitchen. The hut was located in a 3 hectare agricultural land and was surrounded by plantations of Neem, *Azadirachta indica*, Ber, *Zizyphus mauritiana* and citrus. Hitherto, this species has been recorded from several localities in Gujarat (Ellerman 1961) and

Bisalpur (25°7'N, 73°10'E ; mean annual rainfall 499.7 mm.) in South-western Rajasthan (Rana 1980).

The present report extends the range of *V. oleracea* further north in the desert biome of Rajasthan, and from a residential/premise which has not been hitherto reported.

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