

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE
FROM THE MOUNT BAKER RANGE, BRITISH CO-
LUMBIA.

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Several mice from the northwest belonging to the very distinct *austerus-canadensis* group of the genus *Peromyscus* have already been brought to notice. The subject of the present description is another that seems entitled to recognition. The group to which it belongs is a boreal one, and is distinguished from the *leucopus* group externally by a long hairy, sharply bicolored tail (as long or longer than the head and body), with decided pencil, and cranially by a broad flattened braincase and elongate slender rostrum. It probably has a transcontinental range and its members are all forest-dwellers.

The recognized forms are as follows:

Peromyscus austerus (Baird).

Coast lowlands and valleys of Washington and British Columbia;
Transition Zone.

P. keeni (Rhoads).

Queen Charlotte Islands, B. C.

P. macrorhinus (Rhoads).

Skeena River, B. C.

P. sitkensis Merriam.

Sitka, Alaska.

P. oreas Bangs.

Cascade Mountains of Washington and southern British Columbia;
Boreal Zone.

P. canadensis canadensis (Miller).

Cool, dark forests of Canadian and Transition Zones in eastern
North America.

P. canadensis abietorum Bangs.

Hudsonian and upper Canadian Zones of eastern North America.

P. canadensis umbrinus Miller.

North shore of Lake Superior.

P. canadensis nubiterræ Rhoads.

Higher Alleghany Mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and northward to Pennsylvania.

***Peromyscus oreas* * sp. nov.**

Type from Mt. Baker Range, 49th parallel, British Columbia. Altitude, 6500 ft. No. 3696, ♀ ad., coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected August 29, 1896, by Allan C. Brooks.

General characters.—Size medium (smaller than *P. macrorhinus*); color of upper parts rich reddish-brown; skull smaller and less exaggerated in character than that of *P. macrorhinus*.

Color.—Upper parts in adult, rich brown (varying from Prouts' brown to russets), slightly darkened along middle back by the admixture of black-tipped hairs, forming an indistinct darker dorsal stripe; orbital ring black, narrow, and inconspicuous; under parts dull white, the plumbeous under fur showing through; feet and hands white; ears large, dusky, in fresh pelage with narrow white edges; tail long, sharply bicolor, black above, white below, a long pencil at end. Younger individuals are somewhat darker and less reddish brown above.

Cranial characters.—The skull is smaller than that of *P. macrorhinus*, but has the flat, broad braincase and long slender rostrum peculiar to the group. These characters are rather less pronounced in *P. oreas* than in *P. macrorhinus*.

Measurements.—Type, ♀ ad.; total length, 200; tail vertebræ, 101; hind foot, 24. Topotype, No. 3694, ♂ ad.: total length, 207; tail vertebræ, 114; hind foot, 24.

Skull of type, ♀ ad.: basilar length of Hensel, 20.6; zygomatic breadth, 13.4; incisors to postpalatal notch, 10.8; length of nasals, 11.8.

Remarks.—*P. oreas* appears to be specifically distinct from *P. austerus*, the smaller and very much darker form of the adjacent lowlands.

Mr. Brooks took *P. austerus* at Sumas, B. C.; while in the high mountains of the Mount Baker range he got *P. oreas*. I have also a series of fifty specimens of *P. oreas* taken in the mountains above Hope, B. C., in 1894, by Will C. Colt. These are exactly like the Mount Baker examples, and it is therefore probable that *P. oreas* occupies all the higher mountains of northern Washington and southern British Columbia.

It is probable that *P. oreas* intergrades with *P. macrorhinus*. It is distinguished from that form by smaller size, more reddish brown color, and smaller skull, with the peculiar characters less exaggerated. With the enormous *P. silkensis*, it needs no comparison, nor does it with *P. keeni*, the type of which I have examined and found to be quite close to *P. austerus*.

* *Oreas* = a mountain nymph, *Oread*.



Bangs, Outram. 1898. "Description of a new white-footed mouse from the Mount Baker Range, British Columbia." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 12, 83–84.

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