

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW RACE OF THE LITTLE HARVEST MOUSE
FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Within the last year Mr. Thaddeus Surber has found that the Little Harvest Mouse is comparatively common in the country about White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. He has sent me five specimens and has taken several more that are in his own private collection. The one specimen taken at Fort Myer, Va., by L. Z. Mearns* is the only other record I know for this mouse from so far north in the eastern United States. On comparing these West Virginia specimens with true *Reithrodontomys lecontii* from Georgia and northern Florida some differences in color, proportions, and cranium can be seen, and I propose to separate the northern form as follows:

***Reithrodontomys lecontii impiger* subsp. nov.**

Type from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. No. 7784, ♂ old adult (with much worn teeth), coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected Feb. 27, 1898, by Thaddeus Surber. Original No. 466.

General characters.—Size a little smaller than true *R. lecontii*; tail slightly shorter; ear much smaller; pelage longer and softer; colors of back richer brown, sides paler, the contrast in color between sides and back more marked; skull smaller, more slender and lighter throughout; molar teeth rather larger.

Color.—Adult in winter pelage, upper parts dark russet brown, rather darker along middle of back and on rump, sides much paler, almost ochraceous buff on lower sides; under parts grayish white, irregularly washed, in some specimens, with fawn color; feet and hands grayish

* Recorded in Am. Nat., XXXI, p. 161, Feb., 1897.

white; ears dusky, with some reddish brown hairs on both inner and outer surfaces; tail indistinctly bicolor, dusky above, grayish white below, rather more hairy than in true *R. lecontii*; under fur plumbeous throughout except on chin and under side of head, where the hairs are whitish to their base.

Measurements.

No.	Sex.	Total length.	Tail vert.	Hind foot.	Ear from notch (dried skin).
7784	Type, ♂ adult.....	112	51	15	9
6932	Topotype, ♂ adult.....	115	51	15	9
7785	“ ♀ adult.....	120	53	15	8.5

Remarks.—Specimens from Raleigh, N. C., of which there are many in collections, taken by the Brimley brothers, appear to be intermediates, though nearer true *R. lecontii*. In *R. lecontii impiger* the ear is much smaller than in all specimens I have examined from Georgia and northern Florida. For instance, an adult ♀ *R. lecontii lecontii* taken by W. W. Brown, Jr., at Pinetucky, Ga., measures: Total length, 136; tail vertebræ, 62; hind foot, 16; ear from notch, 12 (in dried skin 11.5). Judged by the skulls, this specimen is younger than the type of *R. lecontii impiger*. These differences in size and proportions, combined with the differences in color and the smaller and more delicate skull of *impiger*, serve to distinguish all specimens I have examined from extreme localities.



Bangs, Outram. 1898. "A new race of the little harvest mouse from West Virginia." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 12, 167–168.

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