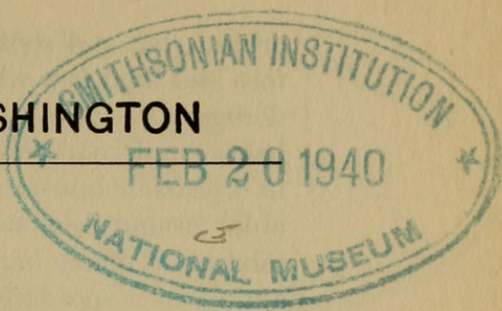


PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF *PEROMYSCUS MANICULATUS*
FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY IAN McTAGGART COWAN.

Field work during the summer of 1937 in the Selkirk Range of British Columbia resulted in the discovery of a population of mice of the genus *Peromyscus* differing so markedly from all geographically contiguous populations as to be at once recognizable as distinct. As there is apparently no name available for this alpine race of deer mouse I propose that it shall be known as

Peromyscus maniculatus alpinus (subsp. nov.).

SELKIRK DEER MOUSE.

Type.—Male adult, skin and skull, No. 2266, British Columbia Provincial Museum; taken July 4, 1937, by I. McT. Cowan at 6000 feet altitude on Mount Revelstoke, 19 miles N. E. of Revelstoke, British Columbia. Original number 1013.

Range.—Taken at several localities in Mount Revelstoke Park in a westerly spur of the Selkirk Range. Probably widely distributed in this mountain range and extending its influence onto the western slope of the Rocky Mountains north at least to Yellowhead Pass.

Diagnosis.—A brightly colored mouse with head and body same size as in *artemisiae* but hind foot larger, tail much longer; and skull smaller.

Measurements.—Averages of 10 fully adult individuals of both sexes: Total length 185 mm. (168-196); tail 96 (86-106); hind foot 21 (20-22). Averages of 15 sexually mature sub-adults 186 mm. (168-202); tail 96 (86-108); hind foot 21 (20-22).

Color.—Adults in fresh summer pelage (July specimens): Similar in general to *artemisiae* but darker and more richly colored; upperparts in general tone varying from between Sayal Brown and Verona Brown to between Tawny Olive and Wood Brown (capitalized color terms are of Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912), brightest on sides, dullest mid-dorsally and acquiring a grayish cast on top of head; dusky dorsal area generally well defined; usually a pronounced dusky

orbital ring and spot at base of whiskers; ears dusky, edged with white; fore and hind feet white; fore legs dusky to wrists, hind legs with color of dorsum extending to just below ankle; tail dusky brownish above, white below; underparts white. Adolescent pelage averaging much darker than in *artemisiae* but occasional individuals of the two races are indistinguishable; ground color between Buffy Brown and Drab with a varying intermixture of dusky hairs; mid-dorsal area dark and clearly defined; eye ring and whisker spot large and dark, generally confluent, rather than generally absent as in *artemisiae*; underparts dusky white. Juvenal, general effect of upperparts Deep Mouse Gray, more brownish on lower sides and on head; darker mid-dorsally.

Comparisons.—In as much as the area occupied by *alpinus* is seemingly surrounded by territory occupied by *artemisiae* detailed comparison need only be made with that race. Apart from color differences indicated above, *alpinus* differs from *artemisiae* and from *borealis*, the only other race with approximately contiguous range, in the slightly larger hind foot, and much longer tail—in 25 adults and adolescents averaging 108% of length of head and body as opposed to 83% in topotypical *artemisiae* and 80% in *borealis*. This increased length of tail is not accompanied by increased body size, and is therefore not explainable as a result of heterogony. Cranially *alpinus* differs from *artemisiae* in having skull shorter and narrower, with shorter nasals; interorbital constriction relatively but not actually greater, 17% rather than 15% of greatest length; interparietal and anterior palatine foramina averaging somewhat larger in both dimensions; interpterygoid fossa generally wider, averaging 30% wider in the series measured for comparison; foramen magnum larger.

Remarks.—Osgood (North American Fauna No. 28) comments in several places (Op. cit. pp. 50, 53 & 60) upon the longer tailed mice occurring in the general region now found to be occupied by *alpinus*, but in as much as most of the material available at that time came from areas of intergradation between the new race and *artemisiae*, perhaps also with *borealis*, the pronounced racial characters were not discernible. The longer tails of *Peromyscus* from the upper Athabasca, Alberta, and from Glacier, Golden, and Sicamous, B. C., were thought to indicate intergradation with *oreas*. It is difficult to understand how this was conceived to be possible, as *oreas* does not range east of the coast mountain ranges and the area intervening between the range of *oreas* and the region occupied by these long-tailed mice of the Selkirks, an area several hundred miles in width, is inhabited exclusively by normal *artemisiae*.

The new race is another instance subscribing to what is apparently a rule in the Pacific Northwest at least; viz. whenever a mountain population of *Peromyscus* is distinguishable from adjoining lowland populations, among the differences will be the longer tail and larger hind foot of the alpine population. Other races that may be said to be illustrative of this behavior are *oreas* and *macrorhinus*.

Specimens examined.—43, all from vicinity of type locality.



McTaggart-Cowan, Ian. 1937. "A new race of *Peromyscus maniculatus* from British Columbia." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 50, 215–216.

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