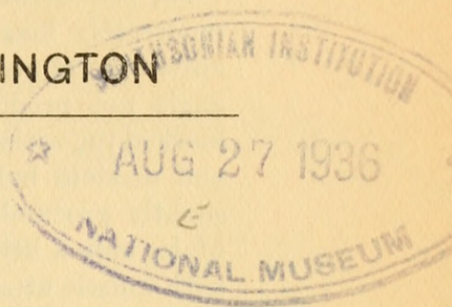


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A NEW POCKET GOPHER FROM KERN COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA.

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At the extreme southern end of the Sierra Nevada, in south-central California, lying between the gap comprised in the canyon of the Kern River and Walker Pass at the north, and Tehachapi Pass at the south, is a mountain mass of which Piute Mountain, 8440 feet altitude, is the highest point. Material at hand indicates that the population of pocket gophers inhabiting the higher parts of that mountain mass has responded appreciably to the factors in part, probably, involved in altitudinal isolation. This differentiated population may be called

***Thomomys bottae piutensis*, new subspecies.**

PIUTE MOUNTAIN POCKET GOPHER.

Type.—Adult female, skin and skull; no. 60051, Mus. Vert. Zool.; French Gulch, Piute Mountains, altitude 6700 feet, 2½ miles northwest Claraville, Kern County, California; collected by David S. MacKaye (orig. no. 259), October 23, 1933.

Diagnosis.—A moderately small, dull colored pocket gopher; smaller and grayer than *T. b. alpinus* or *T. b. pascalis*; darker, less brightly ochraceous-buff, than *T. b. perpallidus*. Coloration (summer pelage, worn): Upper parts Cinnamon-Buff (in some specimens more nearly Buffy Brown) obscured with blackish; head and face the same with admixture of Chaetura Drab; ear patch large, Blackish Slate; feet, tail (or at least terminal half of it), and insides of cheek pouches, white. Under parts whitish (bases of hairs Deep Neutral Gray) tinted more or less faintly with Light Ochraceous-Buff. Winter pelage (fresh, in molting individuals) much darker in general effect than summer pelage, because of reduced widths of subterminal light bands; top of head in some examples almost black; under parts lighter than in summer pelage. (Color terms used here, capitalized, from Ridgway,

Color Standards, 1912.) Skull notably slender; rostrum slender; nasals moderately long; zygomatic arches not widely spreading nor squarish, anterolateral angle produced, sides of zygomata excavate, posterolateral angle not produced; brain-case narrow; occiput rounded and without marked rugosities; temporal ridges light except in very old males; tympanic and mastoid bullae small but well rounded. Incisors of moderate size, slightly procumbent, more so than in *perpes*, *T. b. awahnee* or *alpinus*. Males only a little larger than females, but skull somewhat more massive, with muscle attachments more pronounced.

Measurements.—Of type, female: Weight 100 grams; total length 210 millimeters, tail 65, hind foot 28, ear from crown 7. Skull: basilar length 29.8, length nasals 12.0, zygomatic breadth 21.8, width rostrum 7.0, interorbital width 6.3, mastoid width 18.0, alveolar length upper molar series 7.4, width incisor 2.0.

Comparisons.—Compared with the skull of *alpinus*, that of *piutensis* is smaller, with: decidedly narrower rostrum, and narrower interorbital region and brain-case; less widely spreading zygomata; more rounded occiput; less strongly in-curved incisors; and smaller molars. *Piutensis* is of about same size as *awahnee*, but with: sides of zygomata stouter, more excavate; anterolateral angle of zygomata produced, while posterolateral angle not distinct from postzygomatic crest; zygomata not converging anteriorly; incisors less sharply in-curved. Rostrum slenderer than in *perpes*; interorbital region and brain-case narrower; hamulus of lacrimal smaller; anterolateral angle of zygomata more produced, and sides more excavate; tympanic bullae smaller, less inflated; interpterygoid region narrower; molars decidedly smaller. Compared with *pascalis*, skull much less angular and massive; zygomata weaker; occiput not sharply demarked from dorsum of skull, more rounded and less rugose; rostrum weaker; tympanic bullae much smaller.

Distribution.—Specimens have been examined from the following localities in Kern County, California: Piute Mountain, 11; Walker Basin, 16 (more or less atypical); Kelso Valley, 6 (not typical).

Remarks.—Bailey, in his monograph (North American Fauna No. 39, 1915, p. 65), identified specimens of pocket gopher from the Piute Mountains as *Thomomys alpinus awahnee*, but the ones in the collection here are sufficiently distinct from both *alpinus* proper and *awahnee* to be separately designated. The specimens from the lower, western part of Walker Basin appear to be intergrading toward *pascalis*, and the entire Walker Basin population is variable. Gophers from Kelso Valley, lying to the eastward of the Piute Mountains and toward the Mohave Desert, show characters approaching those of *perpes*, and suggest the possibility of intergradation between that race and *piutensis*. The series from the Piute Mountains proper is, however, fairly uniformly in accordance with the description given above.



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