

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PYGMY MOUSE, *BAIOMYS MUSCULUS*,
FROM MORELOS, MEXICO*

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In field studies carried on in Morelos, Mexico, by the Wildlife Management Department, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, a series of 26 specimens of the species *Baiomys musculus* was collected. Morelos is included in the rather wide range assigned to the subspecies *Baiomys musculus* by W. H. Osgood (Revision of the Mice of the American Genus *Peromyscus*, North Amer. Fauna No. 28, 1909). Our series, however, differs significantly from *B. m. musculus* and other described races, and represents a hitherto unrecognized subspecies.

Baiomys musculus pallidus new subspecies

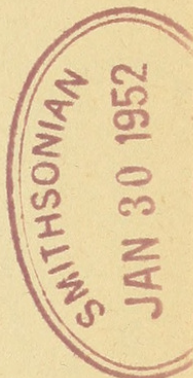
Type.—Adult female, skin and skull, No. 4501, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection; 12 km. NW. Axochiapan, elevation 3500 feet, Morelos, Mexico; July 28, 1950; collected by W. B. Davis, original number 5112.

Range.—Known only from the state of Morelos. Probably occurs throughout the Balsas Basin; specimens from Chilpancingo, Guerrero, show intergradation with *Baiomys m. musculus*.

Diagnosis.—Size small (see measurements); hind foot short; color a pale grayish; underparts whitish; feet white, with a line of grayish hairs along inner side; tail indistinctly bicolored, brownish above, whitish below, becoming darker toward tip; skull short and shallow; brain case flattened; zygoma narrowing anteriorly, narrow in breadth; rostrum sharply depressed anteriorly, wide, short, and strongly tapering; maxillary tooth row short; nasals moderately short; interparietals wide.

Comparisons.—From specimens of *Baiomys musculus musculus*, Rio Aguacatillo, 30 km. N. Acapulco, *pallidus* differs in: smaller size (averaging 11.2 grams compared with 14.2 grams); shorter hind foot (15 mm. compared with 16.5 mm.); upperparts pale grayish as opposed to the brighter brownish of *musculus*; underparts whitish instead of buff; underside of tail lighter; skull shorter (20.1 mm. compared with 21.0 mm.); zygoma narrowing noticeably anteriorly and narrower in breadth (10.7 mm. compared with 11.5 mm.); brain case flattened; cranial depth shallower (6.7 mm. compared with 7.1 mm.); rostrum sharply depressed anteriorly and strongly tapered laterally; maxillary tooth row shorter (3.0 mm. compared with 3.2 mm.).

*Contribution from the Department of Wildlife Management, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.



Compared with *B. m. brunneus*, Plan del Rio, Veracruz, *pallidus* differs as follows: Smaller size (males 11.4 grams compared with 13.2 grams); pale grayish in color, as opposed to the dark brownish of *brunneus*; nasals longer (7.7 mm. compared with 7.0 mm.); interparietals broader (7.7 mm. compared with 7.0 mm.) and longer (2.0 mm. compared with 1.5 mm.).

Close comparison with *B. m. nigrescens* is not necessary. According to Osgood's description of *nigrescens* (1909), *pallidus* differs in lighter color, wider interorbital constriction (3.7 mm. compared with 3.4 mm.), and wider interparietals (7.7 mm. compared with 6.4).

Remarks.—Among the previously described subspecies of *Baiomys musculus*, *pallidus* more closely approaches *musculus* which occurs to the west. But *musculus* is a larger darker animal; with a larger skull, deeper brain case, and more widely spreading zygoma. The molar teeth are larger. The rostrum is longer, narrower, and only slightly tapered as compared with *pallidus*.

This newly described race, *pallidus*, inhabits the eastern section of the range formerly assigned to *musculus* in the arid semi-desert Balsas Basin. Specimens from Chilpancingo, Guerrero, are pale in color and match *B. m. pallidus* in weight. However, cranial and external measurements are comparable to those of *B. m. musculus*. Specimens from Chilpancingo can be regarded as intergrades between *pallidus* and *musculus*.

Measurements.—The type specimen, as follows: Total length, 120 mm.; length tail, 49 mm.; length hind foot, 15 mm.; greatest length skull 20.1 mm.; basilar length, 15.0 mm.; zygomatic breadth, 10.7 mm.; length nasals, 7.7 mm.; shelf of bony palate, 2.9 mm.; palatine slits, 4.1 mm.; diastema, 4.9 mm.; post palatal length, 7.2 mm.; length maxillary tooth row, 3.0 mm.; interparietal breadth, 7.7 mm.; length interparietal, 2.0 mm.; interorbital constriction, 3.7 mm.; cranial depth, 6.7 mm.; weight, 10.5 grams. The averages of 5 females and 5 males from Morelos are respectively: 117 (120.8); 46.4 (45.8); 15.0 (15.0); 19.9 (20.0); 15.0 (15.1); 10.4 (10.5); 7.6 (7.7); 2.9 (2.8); 4.2 (4.4); 4.8 (4.8); 7.2 (7.4); 3.0 (3.1); 7.8 (7.6); 2.1 (2.3); 3.7 (3.7) 6.7 (6.7); weight, 10.9 (11.4).

Specimens examined.—From Morelos, 26, as follows: Axochiapan, type locality, 5; Jonacatepec, 9; Yautepec, 1; Alpuyeca, 2; Tepoztlan, 9.



Russell, R J. 1952. "A new subspecies of pygmy mouse, *Baiomys musculus*, from Morelos, Mexico." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 65, 21–22.

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