

some *Microtus*, but much to my surprise on visiting the traps next morning one held a specimen of *P. albipes*. During the next few days I took two more of these rare mice, as well as specimens of *Microtus oregonus*, *Peromyscus m. rubidus*, and *Sorex vagrans*, all within twenty-five yards of each other. Along a small stream nearby I took one each of *Spilogale latifrons* and *Neotoma c. fusca*, in the only steel trap I had. As the *Spilogale* was an old male I have often wondered how many *albipes* he had "collected."

From the foregoing it would appear that *Phenacomys albipes* is far from common in the state of Oregon. We know practically nothing of its habits, except that it feeds on the ground in dense forested areas. All those I have taken were trapped with oatmeal for bait.

A NEW GENUS OF RODENTS FROM THE MIDDLE EOCENE

BY W. D. MATTHEW

In the collections obtained by the American Museum expeditions of 1903-06 in the Bridger Basin, Wyoming, were several skeletons of rodents. Some, but not all, of these were prepared and described in 1909, in an article by the present writer. During this winter a number of specimens in the Bridger collection have been prepared for study. Among them is a very well preserved rodent skeleton, consisting of the skull, jaws, fore and hind limbs and feet, pelvis and some vertebræ. It appears to belong to "*Paramys*" *delicatissimus* Leidy, 1871, but is clearly not congeneric with the type of *Paramys*, *P. delicatus*. The following generic diagnosis may serve to indicate the principal differences observed:

Reithroparamys gen. nov.

Type, *Paramys delicatissimus* Leidy, from the Bridger formation, Middle Eocene of Wyoming.

Genotype, Am. Mus. No. 12561, skull, jaws, and most of skeleton.

Incisors narrow, deep, laterally compressed, the upper pair slightly grooved on the anterior face. Cheek teeth sciuroid, much as in *Paramys*, and not distinguished by any clearly generic differences. Skull with two parallel raised postorbital crests and a lyrate area behind, instead of the single median crest of *Paramys*. Tympanic bulla of medium size, ossified except towards the posterior margin; no bony meatus. The bulla in *Paramys* is not ossified, nor is it so in any of the nearly related genera or subgenera from the Middle and Upper Eocene, so far as is known. Limbs comparatively long and slender, the hind foot bones long and slim, the fore foot bones relatively small. First metatarsal long but slender, fourth heavier than third, fifth much shorter but comparatively stout.

It is possible that others of the smaller species of *Paramys* would prove to belong to this genus, if better known. *P. copei* Loomis of the Wind River (*Plesiarctomys delicatissimus* of Cope) certainly does not.

The relations of this genus are clearly with *Paramys* and not with *Mysops* or *Sciuravus*, but it presents an interesting new variant on the very limited range of structural divergence found among Eocene rodents.

The characters of the infraorbital region are as in *Paramys*, except that the muscle scar on the inferior surface of the root of the zygoma is less sharply marked off from the anterior surface, which is pitched so as to face more downward, and lacks the pit that in *P. delicatus* intervenes between the infra-orbital foramen and the first upper premolar p.³ The latter tooth is also smaller than in *P. delicatus*. These are individually variable characters in *P. delicatus*, and are not of generic importance.

SOME CALIFORNIAN EXPERIENCES WITH BAT ROOSTS

BY A. BRAZIER HOWELL

[Plate 9]

To those who have investigated bats and their habits to even a slight extent, these mammals are of particular interest. From earliest times they have been so little known and understood that they have been regarded with greatest superstition. They hunt during the hours of darkness, spend the day in hiding in out-of-the-way places, and are altogether such retiring, elusive little beasts, that the mammalogist who would become better acquainted with them must be continually on the alert. While riding about the country, one should keep an eye subconsciously active to remark favorable locations, such as large attics with slatted ventilators. If a colony has taken possession of the space between the walls of a house or cornice, there will often be a tell-tale smudge made by the rubbing of small bodies as they emerge from hiding. While fortified with a pocket full of cigars, a collector, by judicious questioning of village constables, blacksmiths, and such public characters will often meet with success; and I have obtained excellent results from advertising in farm papers.

Our bats may be placed for convenience in two arbitrary groups—those which roost singly or a very few together in trees, high cliffs, or similar locations; and those which are in the habit of gathering in



Matthew, William Diller. 1920. "A New Genus of Rodents from the Middle Eocene." *Journal of mammalogy* 1, 168–169. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1373307>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/220052>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/1373307>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/90510>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not in copyright. The BHL knows of no copyright restrictions on this item.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.