

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF  
ZOOLOGY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY, LA.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

## A NEW PEROMYSCUS FROM TEXAS

By WILLIAM B. DAVIS<sup>1</sup>

Materials assembled in the course of the Walker County, Texas, wild life survey, conducted by the Texas Co-operative Wild Life Research Unit, reveal the presence of an unnamed race of *Peromyscus leucopus* in eastern Texas, for which I propose the name:

*Peromyscus leucopus brevicandus*, new subspecies

Short-tailed *Peromyscus*

*Type*.—Male, adult, skin and skull; No. 101, Texas Co-operative Wild Life Research Museum; Huntsville, Walker County, Texas; collected March 7, 1936, by Walter P. Taylor, original No. A 324.

*Distribution*.—Eastern Texas, probably from the Brazos River east into Louisiana. Extent of range unknown.

*Diagnosis*.—Externally, similar to *Peromyscus leucopus texanus*, but much smaller; length of nasals 45 per cent of basilar length.

*Comparisons*.—Compared with *Peromyscus leucopus texanus*: Much smaller (average total length 142, as opposed to 178<sup>2</sup>); tail actually shorter (61 mm. as opposed to 77 mm.); hind foot shorter (20.0 as opposed to 21.5); skulls similar in most respects, but nasals averaging shorter (8.8 mm. as opposed to 9.3 mm.); color darker. Compared with *P. l. leucopus*: Smaller (average total length 142, as

<sup>1</sup> Department of Wild Game, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station, Texas.

<sup>2</sup> Measurements of *leucopus* and *texanus* are from Osgood (*N. Amer. Fauna*, No. 28).

opposed to 166.5); tail actually and relatively shorter (ratio of length of tail to length of head and body 75, as opposed to 81); skull narrower; nasals shorter (45 per cent of basilar length, rather than 51 per cent); maxillary tooth row averaging slightly longer.

*Measurements.*—Average and extreme measurements, in millimeters, of eight adults (5♂, 3♀): Total length, 142 (134-154); length of tail, 61 (57-67); length of hind foot, 20 (19-22). Basilar length, 19.5 (19.2-20.2); zygomatic breadth, 12.7 (12.1-13.0); length of nasals, 8.8 (8.5-9.3); length of palate, 3.8 (3.6-4.1); length of incisive foramina, 4.4 (4.0-4.8); postpalatal length, 8.7 (8.4-9.1); length of maxillary tooth row, 3.7 (3.5-3.9).

*Remarks.*—In view of the fact that specimens of *Peromyscus leucopus* from eastern Texas are smaller in size than either *texanus* to the west or *leucopus* to the east, they cannot be considered as intergrades and, hence, to me, merit recognition as a distinct race.

Eastern Texas, and perhaps western Louisiana as well, appears to be a center of differentiation for a number of mammals, including *Conepatus*, *Lutra*, *Geomys*, and *Peromyscus*.

*Specimens examined.*—Nineteen, all from Texas, as follows: *Brazos County*: 6 mi. SE College Station, 4. *Trinity County*: Trinity, 2; 5 mi. S Trinity, 2. *Walker County*: Huntsville, 2; 7 mi. E Huntsville, 1; 20 mi. W Huntsville, 7; 15 mi. NE Huntsville, 1.