

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF
ZOOLOGY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY, LA.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

A NEW KANGAROO RAT OF THE *DIPDOMYS ORDII*
GROUP FROM THE BIG BEND REGION OF TEXASBy MONROE D. BRYANT¹

Critical examination of specimens of *Dipodomys ordii* from the Big Bend Region of Texas has brought to light the existence there of an hitherto unnamed race. The newly named race resembles *Dipodomys ordii ordii* in general color and size but differs in details of color and cranial features. The new form may be known as:

***Dipodomys ordii attenuatus*, new subspecies**

Type.—Adult male, skin with skull; no. 80429, Mus. Vert. Zool.; mouth of Santa Helena Canyon, 2146 feet, Big Bend of the Rio Grande River, Brewster County, Texas; November 19, 1936; collected by Adrey E. Borell; original no. 5581.

Range.—Known only from two localities in Brewster County, Texas.

Diagnosis.—*Size*: About as in *Dipodomys ordii ordii*. *Color*: Upper surface between Pinkish Buff and Pinkish Cinnamon, lightly mixed with blackish; sides pure Pinkish Buff (Capitalized color terms according to Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Washington, D. C., 1912); under surface, spot on each side of nose, spot above and behind eye, postauricular patch, stripe on rump, and feet white; ears narrowly margined with white; upper and lower tail stripes blackish, mixed with white on the proximal half; lateral tail stripes white, extending slightly onto the pencil beyond end of vertebrae; distal part of tail slightly crested and penicillate. *Skull*: Triangular; rostrum narrow; frontal processes of premaxillae narrow, extending slightly behind nasals; nasals slender and truncate posteriorly; mastoidal region greatly inflated; interparietal small and triangular in shape with the length always greater than the width; auditory bullae small, long in comparison with depth.

¹ Contribution from the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Measurements.—Mus. Vert. Zool. numbers 80429, 80430, 80431, and Mus. Zool., Univ. of Michigan number, 79121, all adult males, measure respectively as follows: Total length, 243, 240, 228, 245; tail vertebrae, 137, 134, 127, 143; hind foot, 37, 36, 37, 37; ear from notch dry, 11.5, 11.5, 11.5, 11.2; greatest length of skull, 36.6, 36.6, 35.9, 35.5; condylobasal length, 27.1, 27.2, 26.4, 27.8; spread of maxillary arches, 19.5, 19.0, 18.8, 19.1; greatest length of nasals, 14.1, 13.0, 13.1, 12.8; frontonasal length, 22.9, 21.8, 21.6, 21.8; greatest width of rostrum at anterior end, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 3.6; breadth of skull across bullae, 23.1, 23.4, 23.0, 22.2; greatest length of tympanic bulla, 9.1, 9.5, 8.9, 8.9; width of palate and anterior upper molars, 6.1, 6.3, 6.2, 6.3.

Comparisons.—Compared with topotypes of *D. o. ordii*, *D. o. attenuatus* differs as follows: Color of upper surface and sides paler, more buffy and less golden; upper and lower tail stripes with more white hairs; skull smaller in all measurements taken except greatest length of nasals and frontonasal length; rostrum weaker; spread of maxillary arches relatively smaller which, combined with the weaker rostrum, gives the skull an acutely pointed and triangular appearance; auditory bullae smaller and less inflated ventrally; mastoidal region less inflated posteriorly; basioccipital narrower; interparietal smaller. *D. o. attenuatus* differs from *D. o. richardsoni*, as known by specimens from ½ mile west of Canadian, Hemphill County, Texas, in the above mentioned features even more than from *D. o. ordii*, as *richardsoni* is the largest and brightest colored form of the three. *D. o. attenuatus* differs from *D. sennetti*, as known by specimens from Cameron County, Texas, in the following selected features: Hairs on the dorsal surface longer and softer; rostrum weaker; breadth of the skull across bullae greater in comparison with the spread of the maxillary arches, this giving the skull a more triangular appearance when viewed from the dorsal surface; dorsal outline of skull more arched; interparietal smaller and triangular in shape rather than rectangular; palatal region narrower; auditory bullae larger and more oval.

Acknowledgements.—For the opportunity to study and describe this new kangaroo rat, I am grateful to Mr. Adrey E. Borell, now Regional Biologist of the United States Soil Conservation Service, but formerly with the United States National Park Service. I am grateful also to Dr. W. Frank Blair of the University of Michigan for the use of two specimens of *attenuatus* which he had recognized as belonging to an unnamed race that he, himself, had intended to describe. Also to Dr. J. Eric Hill of the American Museum of Natural History I am obliged for the opportunity to make direct comparison with the type specimen and another specimen on which Allen based the name *Dipodops sennetti*.

Specimens examined.—Total number: Five, all from Brewster County, Texas: Mouth of Santa Helena (Elena on some maps) Canyon, 2146 feet, 2; Johnson's Ranch, 2000 feet, 3.

Transmitted May 9, 1939.