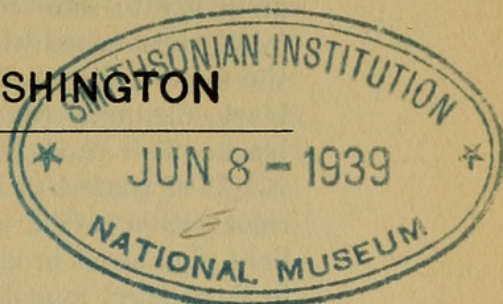


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PEROMYSCUS FROM THE
NORTH SHORE OF THE GULF OF
ST. LAWRENCE

BY C. F. JACKSON,
University of New Hampshire.

In 1935 and again in 1937 the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence was visited for the purpose of collecting small mammals (Journal of Mammalogy, Vol. 19, No. 4, Nov. 14, 1938, pp. 429-434). The region covered extended from the Bay of Seven Islands eastward to the vicinity of Cape Cormorant. A white footed mouse of the *Peromyscus maniculatus* group was everywhere abundant and a total of 67 specimens was collected. A comparison of this series with specimens of the described subspecies shows several striking and constant differences. This form may be described as follows:

***Peromyscus maniculatus plumbeus*, subsp. nov.**

Lead colored white footed mouse.

Type.—From Pigou River on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Province of Quebec. Spec. No. 265/332, adult male, skin and skull, University of New Hampshire Museum; collected by H. W. Jackson in runway, edge of tall grass in ravine near mouth of Pigou River, September 5, 1937.

Distribution.—From Pigou River westward to the Bay of Seven Islands. Limits of range unknown.

General characters.—A dark form without pronounced dorsal stripe and with the ventral pelage light plumbeous or cinereous¹ rather than white or yellowish-white as is true of all other described northeastern subspecies. Total length of skull and nasals shorter than in described northeastern subspecies.

Color of type.—Above blackish slate in mid-dorsal region, changing

¹ Color terms used from Ridgway's *Nomenclature of Colors*.

gradually to slate color along the sides, the entire upper pelage being faintly intermixed with dark drab gray. No distinct dorsal stripe present, the upper pelage being nearly of the same color throughout. Ears slate black, distinctly edged with white. Base of whiskers and orbital region black. Tail strongly bicolored, blackish slate above and cream beneath. A tuft of white hair shows on either side of the tail. The feet are cream color with a tuft of white hairs at the base of each claw. Ventral pelage light plumbeous or cinereous with slate gray showing through, resembling in this respect immature *Peromyscus*.

Color variation.—In the series of 67 specimens no measurable color variations of the ventral pelage could be detected, but some slight variation in the intensity of the dorsal pelage was noted, the type falling almost exactly midway between the two extremes. The chief variation consisted in the amount of intermixing of drab gray or drab with the slate color. At one extreme the pelage varied from slate black to slate gray with little drab intermixture; at the other, the darker slate was more or less overlaid with drab. Looking at the series of skins there was little indication of brown or umber so common in many of the other northeastern subspecies.

Young in juvenile pelage.—Slate black in middorsal region fading to slate gray along sides with only a vague line of demarcation between the sides and the cinereous ventral pelage. Tail blackish slate above, cream beneath. Feet somewhat darker than in adult. Ears slate black edged with white.

Skull.—In general the skulls of northeastern *Peromyscus* are unsatisfactory for purposes of diagnosis of the subspecies. However, the present form is distinctly different from any of the northeastern subspecies in several regards. Comparing measurements with those given by Osgood (North American Fauna No. 28, *Revision of the Mice of the American Genus Peromyscus*, Osgood, Wilfred H., 1909, p. 263), the total length is considerable less, zygomatic breadth generally so (except in *Peromyscus maniculatus gracilis*) and nasals distinctly less than in any other adjacent subspecies. Although a difficult character to measure, the skull appears lighter than in the other forms.

Measurements.—Type No. 265/332, adult male—length, 177; tail, 90; hind foot, 21.0. Skull: total length, 24.0; zygomatic breadth, 12.0; interorbital constriction, 4.0; nasals, 9.2; shelf of bony palate, 4.0; palatine slits, 4.9; maxillary tooth row, 3.6.

The average body measurements of ten males are as follows: total length, 175.7; tail, 87.8; hind foot, 20.7, and of ten females: total length, 181.2; tail, 91.2; hind foot, 20.8.

The average skull measurements of five males and five females are as follows: total length, 24.5 (male 24.0 to 24.8), (female 24.8 to 25.1); zygomatic breadth, 12.4 (male 12.0 to 12.8), (female 12.5 to 13.0); interorbital constriction, 4.0 (male 3.8 to 4.0) (female 3.9 to 4.3); nasals, 9.6 (male 9.1 to 9.9) (female 9.3 to 10.3); shelf of bony palate, 4.0 (male 3.9 to 4.0) (female 4.0 to 4.3); palatine slits, 5.1 (male 4.9 to 5.5) (female 5.0 to 5.3); maxillary tooth row, 3.9 (male 3.6 to 4.1) (female 3.9 to 4.4).

Comparison with other northeastern subspecies.—A large number of specimens of *Peromyscus maniculatus* have been examined through the courtesy

of Dr. Glover M. Allen who allowed me to study all of the material in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Anatomy which includes a large series from the east coast of Labrador as well as the material from the Bangs collection of Labrador mammals. Specimens of *Peromyscus* were also examined from the National Museum (courtesy Dr. H. H. T. Jackson) and from the American Museum (courtesy Dr. H. E. Anthony). These, however, are not included below except where noted. The following observations are made in the light of these studies.

***Peromyscus maniculatus plumbeus*, subsp. nov.**

Total number of specimens examined, 67 from the following localities: mouth of Moisie River, 19; Seal House Cove, 1; Point St. Charles, 14; Seal River, 20; Pigou River, 13. All are located in the collection of the University of New Hampshire.

Peromyscus maniculatus maniculatus (Wagner).

Total number of specimens examined, 95 from at least eleven different localities on the east coast of Labrador. Differentiated from the present form by the distinctly yellowish color of the ventral pelage. The dorsal pelage is much browner in color. The demarcation between the upper and lower pelage is much more distinct. Several specimens from the Hudson Bay region labeled *Peromyscus maniculatus maniculatus* were much lighter and browner in color with white ventral pelage.

Peromyscus maniculatus gracilis (Le Conte).

Total number examined, 54 from at least eighteen different localities. Russet or cinnamon brown rather than slate above with a more distinct dorsal stripe, and ventral pelage snow white or white tinged with yellow.

Peromyscus maniculatus abietorum Bangs.

Total number of specimens examined, 38 from at least six different localities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Dorsal pelage much browner, ventral pelage white or yellowish, not slate gray. Demarcation between upper and lower pelage much more distinct.

Peromyscus maniculatus argentatus Copeland and Church.

Two specimens examined from Grand Manan Island (topotypes). Dorsal pelage approaching that of *Peromyscus maniculatus plumbeus* but more mixed grayish brown in color, ventral pelage white or tinged with yellow.

Peromyscus maniculatus eremus Osgood.

Three specimens examined (topotypes) from Magdalen Islands (courtesy of Dr. H. H. T. Jackson). Dorsal pelage russet brown, ventral pelage creamy white.

Peromyscus maniculatus anticostiensis Moulthrop.

Twenty-two specimens examined. (James Bay, 17, courtesy of Dr. Allen; Fox Bay, 5, courtesy of Dr. Philip N. Moulthrop, Cleveland Museum of Natural History). Dorsal pelage more brownish to grayish brown tinged with ochraceous, ventral pelage white or yellowish white.

Remarks.—No specimens of *Peromyscus maniculatus* from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence have been found by me in any of the museum collections examined. A comparison of 67 specimens with representatives of all of the northeastern subspecies indicates that the light plumbeous or dark cinereous ventral pelage, the blackish slate or slate color dorsal pelage washed with drab gray, and the short skull and nasal bones are diagnostic characters of *Peromyscus maniculatus plumbeus*.



Jackson, C. F. 1939. "A new subspecies of *Peromyscus* from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 52, 101–104.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/107601>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/45868>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Biological Society of Washington

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

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>.