

Two New Colorado Mammals

By

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Continued studies of material contained in the collections of the Colorado Museum of Natural History have brought to light two hitherto undescribed Colorado mammals which may, hereafter, be known as follows:

GENUS CONEPATUS

Conepatus mesoleucus fremonti, sbsp. nov.

Type: Adult male, skin and skull, Colorado Museum No. 2506 from Garden Park, near Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado. February 1, 1932. Collected by C. J. Williams.

Range: Warm Sonoran valleys tributary to the Arkansas River in Fremont and El Paso Counties, Colorado. Limits of range unknown.

Diagnosis: A medium sized *Conepatus* from the northern distributional limit of the genus; differing from *C. mesoleucus mearnsi* Merriam¹ and *C. mesoleucus figginsi* F. W. Miller by smaller size and cranial details.

Color: As in *C. mesoleucus figginsi*, but sides duller and less shiny black.

Measurements: Type (from "made up" dried skin), total length 705; tail vertebrae 255; hind foot 55.

Skull: (for measurements see Table 1.) Brain case high and straight walled. Posterior margin of palate with well developed median spine, inter-pterygoidal fossa heart-shaped rather than U-shaped as in *mearnsi* and *figginsi* and measuring in greatest length more than twice its greatest width.

Remarks: In addition to the type specimen, there has been available for study a single un-sexed skull from Little Fountain Creek, El Paso County, Colorado, generously loaned me by Mr. E. R. Warren of Colorado Springs from his collection.² While this specimen, which is likely a female, is too young for satisfactory determination, it is, in aggregate of characters, referable to *fremonti*, though the inter-pterygoidal fossa lacks the distinctive constriction of the type. This lack of development is no doubt traceable to immaturity, for in other features, notably the high erect brain case, it is clearly like *fremonti*, differing conspicuously in this regard from a specimen of *figginsi* of comparable age.

Specimens Examined: Two, one from the type locality and one from Little Fountain Creek, El Paso County, Colorado.

1. For loan of comparative material of *Conepatus mesoleucus mearnsi* Merriam, the author is indebted to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.

2. Recorded as *mearnsi* by E. R. Warren in the Journal of Mammalogy Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 112.

GENUS NEOTOMA

Neotoma albigula laplataensis, sbsp. nov.

Type: Adult skin and skull, Colorado Museum No. 721, from near Bondad, La Plata County, Colorado. Collected by L. J. Hersey. June 20, 1913.

Range: Mancos-San Juan River region in Montezuma and La Plata Counties, Colorado. Limits unknown.

Diagnosis: A peripheral race of *albigula*³ characterized by small size, pallid coloration and long maxillary molar series.

Color: Like *Neotoma a. albigula* Hartley, but paler; the dorsal area with few or none of the blackish hairs that characteristically darken *albigula* in summer pelage.

Measurements: Type, total length 290; tail vertebrae 128; hind foot 31.

Skull: (for measurements see Table 2.) Like *N. a. albigula* but with relatively and actually longer and heavier maxillary molar series. Anterior re-entrant angle of first upper molar slight.

Remarks: In the Journal of Mammalogy, Vol. 12, No. 4, November, 1931, p. 432, the author recorded C. M. N. H. No. 770 from Four Corners and C. M. N. H. No. 721, the type, from Bondad, La Plata County, as *Neotoma albigula albigula* Hartley, pointing out at the time certain pertinent differences existing between them and typical *albigula*. Additional material since acquired has sustained the observed differences and makes the recognition of the Colorado specimens as a separable race desirable.

Specimens Examined: Four Corners, Montezuma County, Colorado, three; Bondad, La Plata County, Colorado, one.

3. For loan of comparative material of *Neotoma albigula albigula* Hartley, including topo-types, the author is indebted to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

TABLE ONE

Comparative Cranial Measurements of Three Races of *Conzypatus mesoleucus*.

<i>C. m. figginsi</i>									
Number	Sex	Greatest Length	Condylor-basal Length	Palatal Length	Zygo-matic Width	Height Rostrum	Least Inter-orbital	Mastoid Width	Ptery-goidal fossa
C.M.N.H.									
1946	♂	81	75	32.8	55.8	25.2	21	42	7x14
C.M.N.H.									
1961*	♂	82	76.3	31.5	54	24.5	23.2	45.2	8x15
<i>C. m. mearnsi</i>									
Bio. Surv.									
119,013	♂	80	72.5	32	47	23.2	27.3	41.5	8x12
Bio. Surv.									
31,970	♂	77	72.2	32.4	49.5	23.2	20.2	44	7.2x12.5
<i>C. m. fremonti</i>									
C.M.N.H.									
2506*	♂	72	68.7	29	45	21	19.4	37	6.5x14.4

*Type.

TABLE TWO

Body and Cranial Measurements of *Neotoma albigula laplataensis*

Number	Sex	Total Length	Tail Vert.	Hind Foot	Condylor-basal Length	Basilar Length	Zygo-matic Width	Least Inter-orbital	Palatal Length	Maxillary Molar Series
C.M.N.H.										
770	♂	309	138	31	41	35	21.3	5.5	7	8.2
C.M.N.H.										
721*	♂	290	128	31	41	33.9	21.7	5.5	7	8
C.M.N.H.										
2507	♂	288.5	121	32	37.8	31.8	21.4	5.9	7.5	8.5
C.M.N.H.										
2508	♀	288	124	31	36.6	31.6	21	5.4	6.3	8.6

*Type.