

ON THE MAMMALS COLLECTED IN EASTERN HONDURAS IN 1887  
BY MR. CHARLES H. TOWNSEND, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A  
NEW SUBSPECIES OF *CAPROMYS* FROM LITTLE SWAN ISLAND.

BY FREDERICK W. TRUE.

1. *Description of Capromys brachyurus thoracatus*, subsp. nov.

Before considering the mammals collected by Mr. Townsend in Honduras, I will proceed to describe an apparently new subspecies of *Capromys*, of which this explorer obtained two specimens while journeying thither. These were caught on Little Swan Island, one of two small islands lying at the entrance of the Gulf of Honduras. The genus *Capromys* has hitherto been considered as peculiar to Cuba and Jamaica, and it is of much interest to learn that its range extends to the Swan Islands, which are distant only about 110 miles from the nearest point in Honduras, but fully 365 miles from the western end of Jamaica.

It is also noteworthy that the new form is specifically identical with the *Capromys* of the latter island, *C. brachyurus* Hill.\* If the original description of that species is correct, however, the Swan Island form would appear to present certain differences in coloration which would entitle it to be ranked as a separate geographical race or subspecies. As the description of *C. brachyurus* is brief and is, furthermore, contained in a work not generally accessible, I will quote it in full, pointing out at the same time, in a parallel column, the differences of color presented by the two specimens obtained by Mr. Townsend.

*Comparison of Capromys brachyurus Hill, and C. brachyurus thoracatus subsp. nov.*

*Capromys brachyurus* Hill (original description).

Tail very short, about one-eighth of the total length.

Fur dense and harsh, generally from three-fourths to 1 inch in length, with a few longer hairs intermixed, but all of one kind.

Each hair is black, with a ring of bright bay or golden brown near the tip, imparting a brindled appearance to the fur, like that of a dark specimen of the Brown Rat.

On the throat, breast, and belly, the fur is yellowish, becoming white along the mesial line.

*Capromys b. thoracatus*, subsp. nov.

The same.

The same.

Hairs dull, plumbeous brown at the base, with a subterminal ring of dull Naples yellow; tips blackish-brown. A few hairs entirely white, and others entirely dark, intermixed.

Fur of the throat pale gray, with yellowish tips. A band of nearly pure white hairs on the breast, between the fore legs; followed on the belly by hair which is tinged with pale yellowish gray, darkest along the median line.

\*Gosse, Naturalist in Jamaica, 1857, p. 471.

The feet are clothed with blackish hairs, short and stiff; the soles are black, roughened with rasp-like warts.

The thumb of the fore paws is a rudimentary tubercle, but armed with a distinct blunt nail.

The great toe of the hind foot set far back, separable, and thumb-like.

Ears blackish gray; short and fleshy.

Muffle (or broad flat termination of snout) blackish, clothed with a glistening pile of very short down, the extreme margins of the nostrils alone being naked.

Mustaches long.

Incisors white; molars with two deep oblique folds externally and one internally.

Tail stiff, taper, with rounded point; scaly, with thick, short, bristly hair, which is black on the upper surface, grayish-brown below; the base of the tail is nearly naked.

Feet clothed with short ringed hairs, like those of the back, but darker. Hairs of the proximal and inner portion of the hind feet ochreous yellow. Toes, blackish brown.

The same.

The same; not thumb-like.

Muffle dark brown.

The same; hairs dark brown, very few on the lower surface.

The distinguishing features in the coloration of the *Capromys b. thoracatus*, as appears from this comparison, are the white band across the breast, the gray throat, and the brown and ochreous (not blackish) hind feet. In size and proportions these specimens agree very closely with the typical form.

*Measurements of C. b. thoracatus, No. 15898, U. S. National Museum, Little Swan Island, Male.*

	<i>mm.</i>		<i>mm.</i>
Length of head and body.....	344.	Height of ear from occiput.....	18.
Length of hind foot.....	65.	Height of ear from base of outer margin.....	25.
Length of fore foot.....	40.	Greatest breadth of ear.....	19.5
Length of tail.....	45.		

*Measurements of two skulls of Capromys brachyurus thoracatus.*

Measurement.	22691 ♂	22692*
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
Greatest length of skull.....	68.5	.....
Basiscranial length (Hensel).....	53.5	.....
Greatest breadth of skull from malar to malar.....	35.5	.....
Least breadth between orbits.....	17.7	18.0
Length of nasals.....	23.0	23.5
Length of frontals.....	23.0	13.0
Length of upper molar series.....	15.5	15.0
Distance between inner margins of anterior upper molars.....	2.0	2.1
Distance between inner margins of posterior upper molars.....	5.3	5.3
Distance from anterior upper molars to incisors.....	16.5	17.0
Length of lower molar series.....	15.5	15.5

\* Skull broken.

2. *A list of the Mammals collected in Eastern Honduras.*1. *Mycetes palliatus* Gray.

Two adult males, an adult female, and a young female of this species were obtained.\* This species has not, I believe, hitherto been obtained north of Lake Nicaragua, and its discovery in Eastern Honduras considerably extends its known range.

2. *Cebus hypoleucus* Humboldt.

Two males and two females of this species were obtained. It has not been found, hitherto, I believe, north of Nicaragua. The specimens present the normal coloration.

3. *Felis pardalis* Linné.

Two specimens were obtained.

4. *Nasua nasica* Linné.

Two young specimens, about 260<sup>mm</sup>. long, labeled Segovia River and Eastern Honduras respectively. The former, No. 15942, which is slightly the larger, is dark brown above, with a median band of blackish brown, and an area on each shoulder lighter brown than that of the sides. The annulations of the tail are distinct. The smaller skin, No. 16088, is darker on the sides, but the subterminal light brown rings of the hairs are more conspicuous, and the color does not change on the shoulders. The annulations of the tail are less distinct.

5. *Cariacus clavatus* True.

A series of six skins of this interesting simple-horned deer, of which I have recently published a description in an earlier part of this journal,† is included in Mr. Townsend's collection.

There are two males of two or three years, two females, and a single young individual of either sex. For a description of these skins I refer the reader to my recently-published essay on the species.

6. *Scuirus hypopyrrhus* Wagler.

The collection includes four skins of this species, which vary in color in a very remarkable manner. The backs are, however, of the same color in all the specimens, being grizzled from the fact that the color of the subterminal light yellow rings of the hairs is mingled with the pure black of the tips. The tuft behind the ear is ferruginous in all the specimens. In other respects they differ as follows:

15946, ♀. Segovia River, June 25, 1887. Under surfaces mixed black and rusty brown; an irregular median white band. Throat rusty brown. Feet black. Subterminal black band of the hairs of the under side of the tail very broad.

\* The exact locality in Eastern Honduras from which these specimens were obtained is not given in the label. Mr. Townsend's explorations were, however, confined to the Segovia River and the vicinity of Truxillo.

† Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xi, 1889, p. 417.

15948, ♂. Segovia River, July 10, 1887. Under parts bright rufous, with but little white in the median line. Subterminal black band of the hairs of the tail comparatively narrow. Fore feet black; hind feet grizzled, except the inner toe and a small area adjacent, which are black.

15947, ♀. Segovia River, July 10, 1887. Throat and middle of belly bright rufous; area between the fore and hind legs white. Feet black. Subterminal black ring of hairs of under surface of tail very broad.

15956, ♂. Truxillo, Sept. 25, 1887. All the under surfaces, including inside of legs, pure white. Feet grizzled.

7. *Sciurus tephrogaster* Gray.

One specimen from Truxillo.

8. *Coelogenys paca* Linné.

One female specimen, of the same color as others in the collection from Costa Rica.

9. *Dasyprocta punctata* Gray.

Two males from the Segovia River, and two females, of which the exact locality of capture is not stated.

10. *Rhynchonycteris naso* Max. zu Weid.

One specimen from Truxillo.

11. *Tatusia novemcincta* Linné.

This armadillo appears to be abundant in Eastern Honduras. Mr. Townsend obtained seven specimens, three of which (a female and two young individuals) were from the Segovia River.

12. *Didelphys opossum* Linné.

A male from the Segovia River.

13. *Didelphys murina* Linné.

One specimen from the Segovia River.