

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW COTTON RAT FROM ARIZONA.

BY A. BRAZIER HOWELL.

In my collection are two cotton rats from the vicinity of Fort Lowell, Arizona, which could not be satisfactorily identified with the material at hand. Accordingly, I sent one of them to the Bureau of Biological Survey for determination, and Dr. Jackson, who examined it, informed me that it probably belonged to an undescribed race. D. R. Dickey generously loaned me two skins which he had from the same section, and with ten specimens of various Arizona races kindly furnished me by the Biological Survey, through Mr. E. W. Nelson, and a good series of *Sigmodon eremicus* in my own collection, the differences appear to be entirely sufficient for me to designate a new form which may be known as

Sigmodon hispidus cienegae.

CIENEGA COTTON RAT.

Type from Bullock's Ranch, four miles east of Fort Lowell, Pima County, Arizona. No. 1531, collection of A. B. Howell; collected by L. M. Huey; January 4, 1916.

Geographic distribution.—Probably the small and widely scattered cienega and grassy damp spots of the upper Santa Cruz River system.

General characters.—Closest to *Sigmodon h. confinis*, but skull with more inflated braincase, larger bullae, and rostrum shorter and wider. Tail slightly shorter than *eremicus*, and foot considerably longer than that form or *confinis*.

Color.—Darker and slightly browner than *eremicus*, but hardly comparable in this respect with specimens of *confinis* or *arizonae*, as all of the latter are summer skins.

Skull.—In comparison with *confinis*, the skull differs in having slightly larger molars, bullae larger and more globular, inter-orbital width greater, braincase more inflated, rostrum shorter, wider and heavier in general. From

eremicus it differs in having greater inter-orbital width, larger bullae, and shorter, heavier rostrum.

Measurements.—Type: Total length, 307; tail, 129.5; hind foot, 35.5. Averages of series (type, no. 318 ♀ coll. A. B. H., nos. 6D ♂ and DX19 ♂ coll. D. R. Dickey): Total length, 261.5; tail, 110; hind foot, 34.

Remarks.—Comparing the ages of the skulls with their sizes, I judge that *cienegae* is a larger animal than *confinis*. Although sign was common at two small spots near the type locality, the animals were very shy, and continued trapping by L. M. Huey and myself during the greater part of the winter, resulted in the capture of but five individuals, three of which were obtained accidentally.