

## DESCRIPTION OF GEOMYS PERSONATUS AND DIPODOMYS COMPACTUS, TWO NEW SPECIES OF RODENTS FROM PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS.

BY FREDERICK W. TRUE.

In a small collection of dry skins of mammals from Padre Island, Texas, recently purchased by the Museum from Mr. C. K. Worthen, of Warsaw, Ill., are three specimens which are apparently the representatives of two new species of rodents, belonging respectively to the genera *Geomys* and *Dipodomys*. For the first of these, I have chosen the name of

## GEOMYS PERSONATUS. (New species.)

*Description*.—Size and proportions of *G. bursarius*. Color above, pale pinkish brown, corresponding to the color termed “Broccoli brown,” in Mr. Ridgway’s “Nomenclature of Colors,” with the addition of a little burnt sienna. This color is darkened along the median line of the back, where the tips of the hairs are sepia colored. On the flanks the clear light-brown shades gradually downwards into pure white, which is the sole superficial color of the under surfaces of the body. On the breast, chin, and the inner sides of the legs, and along the median line of the belly the hairs are pure white to the roots, but elsewhere their basal portion is plumbeous. A well-defined dusky band occupies the space between the eyes and extends thence to the nostrils; but the few hairs immediately beneath the nostrils are white. The hairs on all the feet and on the upper surface of the distal half of the fore-arm and crus are white to the roots, but higher up on the limbs they become plumbeous at the base and light brown toward the tip, like the hairs of the upper surface of the body. The tail is very sparsely clothed with white hairs, the distal half being almost naked. Feet and ears as in *G. bursarius*.

The superior incisors are grooved precisely as in *G. bursarius*.\*

*Measurements*. (From the collector’s notes, except those for the feet.)

Measurements.	♂	♀
	(Collected April 11, 1888.)	(Collected April 11, 1888.)
	Centimeters.	Centimeters.
Length of head and body.....	21.0	21.6
Length of tail.....	7.3	7.8
Height of ear (from behind).....	0.3	0.25
Length of fore foot (with claws).....	3.1	3.2
Length of longest claw.....	1.7	1.8
Length of hind foot (with claw).....	3.2	3.3

This species is evidently closely allied to *G. bursarius*, of which, indeed, it may eventually prove to be a geographical race. I know of no

\* The cranial characters can not be given at this time, owing to the fact that the collector neglected to remove the skulls from the skins. To attempt to remove them now would be to sacrifice the skins.

specimens, however, which may be regarded as intermediate, unless it be those on which Baird founded his *G. breviceps*. In that species the under parts are nearly white, but the species is distinctly smaller, and has the head colored like the upper surface of the body.

The second new species, which belongs to the genus *Dipodomys*, on account of its thick-set body and short legs, may be called

DIPODOMYS COMPACTUS. (New species.)

*Description*.—Hind toes five; form stout; tail and hind legs shorter than in the other species of the genus. Hind foot shorter than the skull, its length less than one-third the length of the head and body; tail vertebrae equaling the head and body in length. Ears moderate and rounded.

Upper surfaces pale, pinkish buff, suffused along the back and head with sepia-color. The under surfaces of the body, the entire fore limbs, and the hind limbs, except a limited area on the outside of the thigh, pure white. The oblique, white thigh-band, which occurs in all the species, is here distinctly limited anteriorly by the sepia-colored tips of the short hair of the rump, and extends to and embraces the root of the tail. The pure white of the under surfaces extends high up on the sides of the face, broadly encircling the eye and extending between the eye and ear, and behind the ear itself for a distance of about twice the length of the latter.

Sides of the tail, and the distal half of its under surface, white; upper surface, including the terminal pencil, with an irregular band of pale sepia-color. Proximal half of the under surface with a similar, but very pale and indistinct, band. Median line of soles with only a faint trace of pale sepia-color. Ears sparsely clothed internally and externally with longish white hairs, except in a small area on the exterior surface of the superior margin, where the hairs are gray.

Mystacial bristles of two colors, white and sepia; claws white.

*Measurements*. (From the collector's notes, except that for the hind foot.)

Measurements.	♀ (Collected April 3, 1888.)
	Cm.
Length of head and body.....	10.5
Length of tail.....	11.45
Height of ear (from behind).....	0.65
Length of fore foot (with claw).....	.....
Length of hind foot (with claw).....	3.1

This species differs from all the forms thus far described in the shortness of its tail and hind limbs and in the amount of white on the sides of the head and the hind legs. The pallor of its coloration is doubtless correlated with the aridity of the region it inhabits, as in the case of *Dipodomys deserti* and the species of *Geomys* just described, but the proportions of its limbs, ears, and tail, and the distribution of its colors, indicate that it is something more than a geographical race.