

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MOUSE, PHENACOMYS  
LONGICAUDUS, FROM OREGON.

BY

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The Smithsonian Institution has recently received from one of its valued correspondents, Mr. Aurelius Todd, of Eugene City, Oregon, a dry skin of an interesting and apparently undescribed species of mouse. It belongs to the genus *Phenacomys*, recently established by Dr. C. H. Merriam, but, unlike the species described by that author, resembles the field-mice of the genus *Hesperomys*, rather than the *Arvicolineæ*, or meadow-mice. This arises chiefly from its possessing a long tail like the field-mice, and I have therefore chosen for the species the name of *Phenacomys longicaudus*.

*Phenacomys longicaudus* sp. nov.

Size moderate, about equaling that of *Hesperomys leucopus*. Ears moderate, nearly concealed by the surrounding fur. Hind foot not relatively longer than in the other species of the genus. Tail long; with the hairs, equal to the body in length.

Color above nearly uniform bright rusty brown; only the tips of the hairs are of this color, the remainder being dark plumbeous. Mixed with the brown-tipped hairs are numerous longer black hairs. Under surfaces white, slightly tinged with rusty brown, especially on the abdomen. The hairs of the throat are white to the base, but elsewhere they are only tipped with light color, the lower portions being plumbeous.

The tail is dusky chocolate-brown above and below. Fore feet brown, like the upper surface of the body; toes more or less dusky. Hind feet similar, but the toes more dusky. A spot on the outside of the metatarsus lighter than the rest of the foot. A portion of the whiskers dusky, the rest whitish. Nose dusky.

*Measurements.* (Dry skin No.  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{9}{8} \frac{2}{8} \frac{1}{3}$ , type).—Total length, 148<sup>mm</sup>; tail, with hairs, 62<sup>mm</sup>; hind foot, 20.2<sup>mm</sup>; ear from behind, 4.6<sup>mm</sup>.\*

The skull belonging to the type is badly broken, and it is only possible to give the dimensions of some of its parts.

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\* These measurements, having been taken from the dry skin, are of course only approximately correct.

*Measurements of the skull.*—Length of the crowns of the upper series of molar teeth, 5.8<sup>mm</sup>; lower molars, 5.7<sup>mm</sup>; length of nasal bone, 6.6<sup>mm</sup>; breadth of interorbital construction, 2.8<sup>mm</sup>.

The molar teeth resemble those of *P. intermedius*, but the lozenges are narrower, and the external re-entrant folds of enamel in the upper molars are directed less backwards and those of the lower molars less forwards than in that species. The molars are rooted. The skull is that of a youngish individual.

*HABITAT.*—Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon.

Regarding the habits of this mouse, Mr. Todd, in a letter to Professor Langley, writes as follows:

By mail to-day I send you a skin and skull of a tree mouse. It lives exclusively, as far as I have been able to ascertain, among the boughs and branches of the Oregon pine trees (*Abies Douglassi*), making a nest of a size smaller than a robin's nest. It is usually situated on the upper side of a medium-sized branch, perhaps 6 inches in diameter, and is composed of the leaves of the tree deftly split in two from one end to the other and dried. The nest is neatly and rather ingeniously made, and the sameness of the material is a novelty. I have only seen two of these mice—one from Douglas County, and this one from Marshfield, Coos County—though I have seen a large number of their nests in this county (Lane County), as well as in Curry, Coos, and Douglas. I can get no information from any one regarding them either from scientific sources or from the observations of others.

The mouse is almost exclusively arboreal in its habits, but I think that I have reason to believe that they sometimes come to the ground for food, as I have seen tracks in the snow around the trees which I think were made by these little animals. They could be tracked up and down the tree, but to no great distance from it, and were most likely in search of food.

It is entirely distinct from *Arvicola* and every other mouse that I have ever seen. I have lived here for many years, and may, perhaps, be considered a close observer.

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