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## A New Species of Vole (Genus *Microtus*) from Oaxaca, Mexico

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A collection of small mammals from north-central Oaxaca made by Thomas MacDougall in 1965 includes a large blackish vole that is new to science. This single specimen represents a *Microtus* (genus and sub-genus) distinct from the three other species of *Microtus* previously known to occur in the state of Oaxaca.

In the following description all measurements are in millimeters. The capitalized color terms are from Ridgway (1912).

Acknowledgment is due to Dr. Sydney Anderson, Associate Curator of the Department of Mammalogy, the American Museum of Natural History, for helpful comments, and to Dr. Charles O. Handley, Jr., United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., for the loan of comparative material. Photographs of the skull were made by Mr. Robert E. Logan, manager of the Photographic and Slide Division, the American Museum of Natural History. Line drawings of the occlusal surface of the molar tooth rows were made by the Graphic Arts Department, the American Museum of Natural History.

### *Microtus oaxacensis*, new species

Figures 1-2

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 208952, skin, skull, and skeleton; adult male from an evergreen rain forest at Tarahundi, a ranch near the village of

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Vista Hermosa, about halfway between Comaltepec and Valle Nacional, 135 kilometers north of Oaxaca city, District of Ixtlan, Oaxaca, Mexico, altitude, about 5000 feet; collector, Thomas MacDougall, original no. 2650, April 5, 1965; prepared from a specimen preserved in formaldehyde; skin in good condition except for incomplete tail, skull complete.

DIAGNOSIS: Size large, pelage long, soft, and somewhat woolly; color blackish; ventral surface slightly paler than dorsum; all four feet blackish, contrasting with the yellowish white claws; skull elongate, less angular than that of the average *Microtus*; molariform teeth large and broad, salient angles sharp, right  $M^3$  with five closed triangles and left with four closed and the fifth nearly closed.

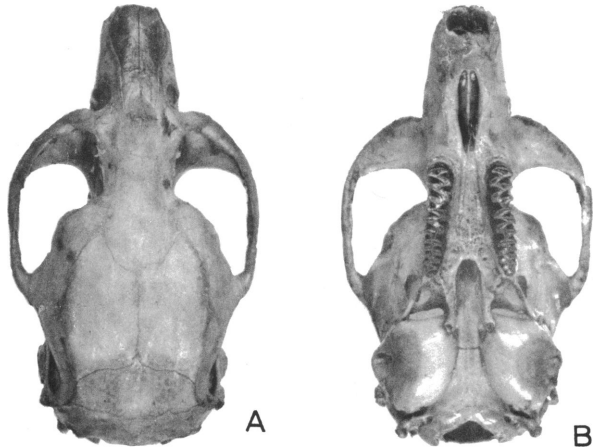
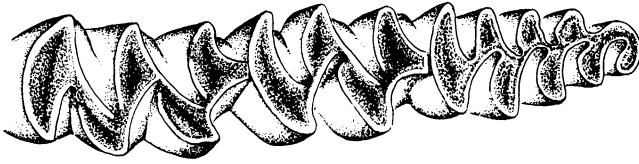


FIG. 1. Cranium of *Microtus oaxacensis*, type, A.M.N.H. No. 208952. A. Dorsal view. B. Ventral view.  $\times 2$ .

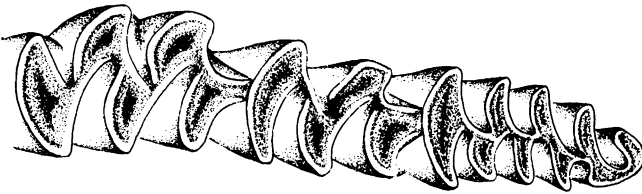
DESCRIPTION: Color of dorsum blackish brown, the hairs Sooty Black from base, finely tipped with Ochraceous-Tawny and mixed with blackish hairs; forefeet and hind feet Sooty Black; claws yellowish white. Skull relatively smoothly rounded for *Microtus*, superior outline straight; braincase long and relatively narrow, the anterior border tapered forward, not squared; interorbital area broad and flat; supraorbital ridges weakly developed and extending backward across parietals in line evenly bowed outward; rostrum slender and not constricted posteriorly; zygomatic arches comparatively narrow; bullae small and rounded; anterior palatine foramina short and narrow.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Length of head and body, 140; hind foot,



1mm.

A



1mm.

B

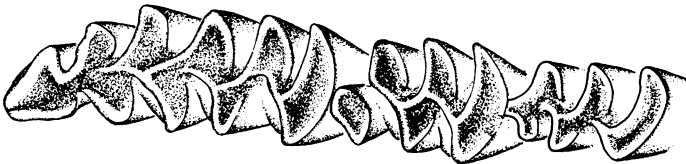


FIG. 2. *Microtus oaxacensis*, type, A.M.N.H. No. 208952. A. Occlusal surface view of maxillary tooth rows. B. Occlusal surface view of mandibular molar tooth rows.

22.5. Skull: Greatest length, 28.1; condylobasal length, 27.8; length of nasals, 7.8; zygomatic breadth, 15.8; interorbital breadth, 4.4; breadth of rostrum at root of zygoma, 4.1; breadth of braincase above mastoid processes, 11.0; width of palate across molars, 5.7; length of bullae, 6.5; maxillary tooth row, 7.5.

SUMMARY: The thickness of the base of the tail, which was lost during life, in the type of *M. oaxacensis* seems to indicate that the original tail was relatively long. *Microtus oaxacensis* has a long braincase and small bullae similar to those of *M. umbrosus*, but is distinct from *M. umbrosus* both externally and in the pattern of the triangles and folds on M<sup>3</sup>. In *M. oaxacensis*, M<sup>3</sup> has five closed triangles; in *M. umbrosus* M<sup>3</sup> has only two closed triangles. *Microtus mexicanus fulviventris* is smaller than *M. oaxacensis* and has a shorter and more angular skull, shorter and broader braincase, and larger bullae. Externally *M. oaxacensis* superficially resembles *M. quasiater* but differs in cranial and dental characters.

#### LITERATURE CITED

RIDGWAY, ROBERT

1912. Color standards and color nomenclature. Washington.