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## A New Harvest Mouse of the Genus *Reithrodontomys* from Tamaulipas, Mexico

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In a collection of small mammals taken by Marian Martin in Mexico during the summer of 1951 is a small series of harvest mice from the mountains of southwestern Tamaulipas that apparently should be recognized as a named form.

*Reithrodontomys megalotis hooperi*,<sup>1</sup> new subspecies

HOOPER'S RED-BELLIED HARVEST MOUSE

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 148015, skin and skull, adult female, Rancho del Cielo, 3500 feet elevation, in the eastern foothills of the Sierra Madre Oriental, 5 miles northwest of Gómez Farías, Tamaulipas, Mexico; collector, Marian Martin, July 6, 1951; original no. 315. The skin of the type is in good condition, though somewhat overstuffed; the skull is complete, teeth showing considerable wear. Besides the type, there are an adult male with a badly crushed skull and an immature female, both from the type locality.

GENERAL CHARACTERS: A comparatively large, long-tailed harvest mouse of the *megalotis* group with small ears, short, richly colored pelage, buffy under parts, and a bright buffy pectoral area. Similar in general color to *R. m. zacatecae* Merriam from the Sierra Madre of western Mexico but larger, with a longer tail, lighter color, and a larger skull.

DESCRIPTION: Color of the type in fresh glossy summer pelage: upper parts a mixture of black and Pinkish Cinnamon,<sup>2</sup> the black predominating down the middle of the back and forming a distinct, dark, broad stripe from between the eyes to the base of the tail. The cinnamon is palest on

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<sup>1</sup> Named after Dr. Emmett T. Hooper in recognition of his splendid work on the Latin American harvest mice.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized color terms are from Ridgway, "Color standards and color nomenclature," Washington, D. C., 1912.

sides of head and shoulders, becoming richer on the sides to the hips. Hair on under parts Mouse Gray from base and tipped with Pinkish Cinnamon; pectoral area Ochraceous-Tawny; a patch of hairs on chin white to the roots; ears Fuscous Black, sparsely covered with brownish and blackish hairs; tail not sharply bicolor, blackish above, white below; hind feet white, becoming slightly dusky at the ankles; fore feet and wrists white. In the other two specimens from the type locality the fur is longer and fuller, and the tail more sharply bicolor.

The skull is about the same in size as that of large specimens of *R. m. saturatus* but has smaller molar teeth, with short mesolophs in  $m^1$  and  $m^2$ , more rounded braincase, and a comparatively shorter and broader rostrum.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Skin: total length, 168 mm.; length of tail, 90 (dry, 96.5); hind foot, 16 (dry, 18); length of ear from notch, 15 (dry, 11.5). Skull: greatest length, 22; zygomatic breadth, 11.6; breadth of braincase, 10.5; depth of cranium, 8.2; interorbital breadth, 3.1; length of rostrum, 8.2; breadth of rostrum, 4; length of palate, 3.7; length of nasals, 8.7; length of incisive foramina, 4.5; breadth of zygomatic plate, 2.2; breadth of mesopterygoid fossa, 1.1; length of molar tooth row, 3.05.

REMARKS: The combination of longer tail, intense buffy pectoral area, and small molar teeth of *R. m. hooperi* is sufficient to distinguish it from *R. m. saturatus* and *R. m. megalotis*. It appears to be distinct from *R. m. amoles*, which is a high-mountain form that has been taken only at (7500 feet elevation) Pinal de Amoles, Querétaro.

I hesitated until I could consult Dr. Hooper before sending this paper in for publication. He kindly examined the type series when he was in New York for the meeting of mammalogists in the spring of 1953, but he was in favor of provisionally listing them as *R. m. saturatus*, as he had done with specimens in Bruce Hayward's collection from this locality. He referred me to published reports of his where he states: "If the measurements are valid the populations represented by these specimens should be recognized by a different name.<sup>[1]</sup> . . . They appear to be morphologically distinguishable from *saturatus* and *megalotis*. They may or may not be distinguishable from *zacatecae* or *amoles*. The range of variation and the geographic limits of those two forms must be better known before this point can be satisfactorily settled."<sup>2</sup>

While the relationship between *hooperi* and other named forms is not clear, its characteristics are real and warrant distinction.

<sup>1</sup> 1952, Misc. Publ. Univ. Michigan, no. 77, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> 1953, Occas. Papers Univ. Michigan, no. 544, p. 6.

FIELD NOTES: Rancho del Cielo consists of about four cleared acres, most of which are converted into a peach, plum, and apple orchard. The remaining acreage contains corn fields and pastures. The ranch is surrounded by a dense cloud forest supporting a great many epiphytic plants, and a blanket of mosses and ferns covers the forest floor in many places. In addition to almost nightly rainfall during the wet season, there are frequent fog and high humidity, and a general cool, tropical climate prevails.

The type and one other specimen were taken in a grassy field near the orchard, while the immature specimen was caught in a nest under a log about one mile west of the ranch.

