

Article III.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF  
PEROGNATHUS FROM SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS.

By J. A. ALLEN.

During the last few months the Museum has received a large number of mammals collected in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas, among which are numerous specimens of a small species of *Perognathus*, apparently hitherto undescribed. It is allied to *P. flavus*, but evidently quite distinct from it, and may be described as follows :

***Perognathus merriami*, sp. nov.**

Externally of the size and general proportions of *P. flavus*, but brighter and more yellowish in coloration, the sides being strongly yellowish or golden instead of pale cinnamon.

*Measurements* (average of three adult specimens): Total length, 115 mm. ; head and body, 60; tail, 55; hind foot, 17; ear, 4.

Skull, greatest length, 23 mm. ; basilar length (occipital condyle to incisors), 16.5; greatest mastoid breadth, 12.7; least intermastoid breadth, 4; least interorbital breadth, 5.1; length of nasals, 11.5; greatest zygomatic breadth, 11.5; length of upper tooth row, 3.3; breadth of palate at posterior border, 2.8; breadth of palate at anterior border, 2.3; from hinder edge of palate to inner base of incisors, 6.6; length of lower jaw, 12.7; height at coronoid process, 4.6.

Type, No.  $\frac{1145}{117}$ , ♂ ad., Brownsville, Texas, Aug. 10, 1891; F. B. Armstrong.

Compared with the El Paso specimens of *P. flavus* (kindly loaned me for examination by Dr. C. H. Merriam), taken Dec. 12-14, 1889, *P. merriami* differs markedly in coloration in its generally brighter yellowish color, particularly along the sides. A comparison of the skulls reveals very marked differences, not only as regards the general form but in the relative size and form of special parts, as shown in the series of figures in Plate III. In *P. merriami* the skull is much larger and disproportionately broader in proportion to the length. The mastoids are shorter and less developed, leaving a much broader intermastoid area, with the interparietal much broader than long, instead of nearly square as in *P. flavus*. The figures represent—for purposes of

comparison, and also to show individual variation—three skulls of *P. flavus*, and six skulls of *P. merriami*, as seen from above, drawn twice the natural size.

In addition to the three El Paso specimens of *P. flavus* mentioned above, I have three from North Beaver River, Indian Territory (near the northern boundary of Texas), and one from Presidio County, Texas, that seem also referable to *P. flavus*.

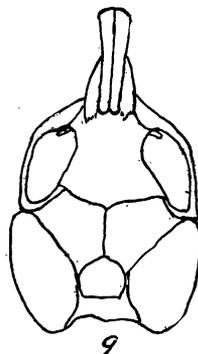
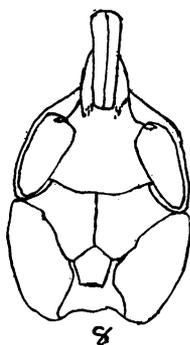
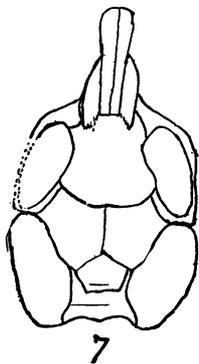
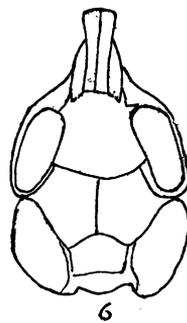
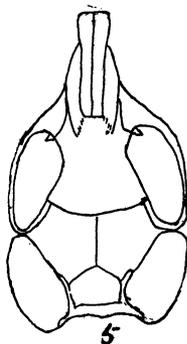
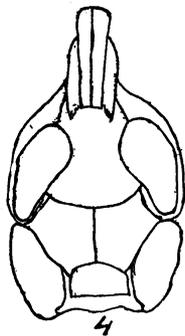
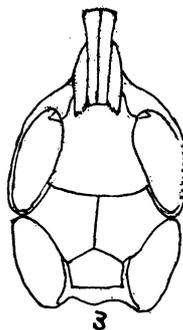
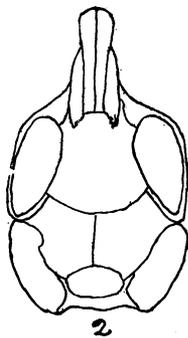
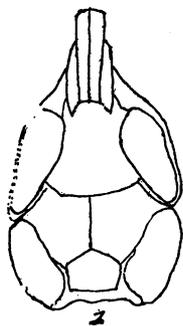
*P. merriami* is based on a series of 17 specimens from Brownsville, Texas, belonging to this Museum, while a considerable number of additional specimens have passed through my hands. They were taken at various dates covering a period of over four months (July to October, inclusive), and include young and adults. The July and August specimens are a little grayer and less fulvous than those taken late in September and October. In all the tail is naked, and the pelage coarser than in *P. flavus*.

The species is named in honor of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE III.

(All the figures are twice the natural size.)

- Fig. 1. *Perognathus merriami*, ♂ ad. No.  $\frac{3178}{4144}$ , Brownsville, Tex., Aug. 4, 1891.  
 " 2. " " ♂ ad. No.  $\frac{3177}{4146}$ , Aug. 10, 1891.  
 " 3. " " ♀ ad. No.  $\frac{3178}{4146}$ , Sept. 10, 1891.  
 " 4. " " ♂ ad. No.  $\frac{3179}{4147}$ , Sept. 6, 1891.  
 " 5. " " ♂ ad. No.  $\frac{3180}{4148}$ , Sept. 13, 1891.  
 " 6. " " ♀ ad. No.  $\frac{3181}{4148}$ , Oct. 9, 1891.  
 " 7. *Perognathus flavus*, No. 2357, Coll. Dr. Merriam, El Paso, Texas.  
 " 8. " " ♀ No.  $\frac{18180}{25038}$ , U. S. Nat. Mus., El Paso, Texas, Dec. 14, 1889.  
 9. " " ♂ ad. No.  $\frac{18181}{25038}$ , U. S. Nat. Mus., El Paso, Texas, Dec. 12, 1889.



1-6. *Perognathus merriami*. 7-9. *Perognathus flavus*.  
(Twice natural size.)

