

**Article XXI.—DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW RACES  
OF MAMMALS FROM FLORIDA, WITH REMARKS  
ON SITOMYS NIVEIVENTRIS CHAPMAN.<sup>1</sup>**

By FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

**Scalops aquaticus australis, subsp. nov.**

*Char. Subsp.*—Similar to *Scalops aquaticus*, but averaging slightly browner and constantly much smaller.

*Description of Type* (Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No.  $\frac{8916}{2990}$ , Gainesville, Florida, May 4, 1891; F. M. Chapman).—Pelage soft and full, silvery grayish brown; upper surface of fore feet and hind feet very scantily covered with short whitish hairs; tail with a few longer grayish hairs.

*Measurements*.—From the fresh specimen, total length, 148 mm.; hind foot, 17; tail, 22.

While the characters which distinguish this race are to be found mainly in its small size, they are too striking to be ignored. Of the five specimens of *australis* in the American Museum Collection only two were measured in the flesh; the remaining three are, however, evidently quite as small. The flesh measurements of the two specimens compared with those of five specimens of *S. aquaticus* from the vicinity of New York City are as follows:

	Total Length.	Tail.	Hind Foot.
<i>S. aquaticus</i> .....	163	28	20
<i>S. a. australis</i> .....	142	21.5	16.5

The comparative cranial measurements of the two forms are as follows:

	Basal Length.	Mastoid Breadth.	Interorbital Constriction.	Posterior Margin of Last Molar to Posterior Base of Incisor.	Palatal Breadth.
<i>S. aquaticus</i> .....	32.5	17.5	7.2	13.4	5.4
<i>S. a. australis</i> .....	28.5	15.7	7	11.7	5

<sup>1</sup> *Hesperomys niveiventris* Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., II, 1889, p. 117.

***Sitomys niveiventris subgriseus*, subsp. nov.**

*Char. Subsp.*—Similar to *Sitomys niveiventris*, but smaller, darker, and with the hairs of the underparts plumbeous at the base.

*Description of Type* (Coll. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 1745, adult male, Gainesville, Florida, January 30, 1889; F. M. Chapman).—Above between wood-brown and cinnamon,<sup>1</sup> very sharply defined from the under surface, clearer about the face and sides, mixed with blackish on the back, forming an indistinctly defined darker, median dorsal area; underparts, including the feet, white, the hairs basally plumbeous; whiskers rather scanty; ears proportionally rather large, both surfaces finely covered with short, silvery white hairs; tail short, bicolor, very sparsely haired and without an appreciable pencil; soles of the hind feet naked, except at the heel, which, with the tibiae for a space of 4 mm. from the heel and the upper surface of both front and hind feet, is thinly covered with short hairs.

*Measurements*.—From the fresh specimen, total length, 122 mm.; tail vertebræ, 45. From the skin, hind foot, 16.5; height of ear at anterior base, 13; height from crown, 9; greatest width, 9.

The female resembles the male both in color and size; young specimens are smoke-gray above somewhat darker dorsally and with a buffy tinge about the nose.

Beyond having a shorter and relatively broader skull than *S. niveiventris* this new form apparently does not differ cranially from that species. The differences in size are shown by the following measurements. Average of three males and three females of *S. niveiventris*, measured in the flesh: total length, 142 mm.; tail vertebræ, 52. Average of seven males and seven females of *S. n. subgriseus*: total length, 123 mm.; tail vertebræ, 43. Cranial measurements from the same specimens are:

	Basal Length. <sup>2</sup>	Mastoid Breadth.	Interorbital Constriction.	Nasals.	Crown Surface of Upper Molars.
<i>S. niveiventris</i> .....	19.6	9.4	3.6	9.5	3.3
<i>S. n. subgriseus</i> .....	17.8	9.1	3.5	8.2	3

This little mouse is exceedingly common in the vicinity of Gainesville. It inhabits cleared fields, particularly those which are under cultivation, cornfields being among its favorite haunts. It lives in holes in the ground, and so far as I observed does not

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Ridgway, Nomenclature of Colors.

<sup>2</sup> From the posterior margin of the occipital condyle to the posterior base of the incisors.

close the entrance to its home. Signs of its presence are therefore readily observable, and traps set at the mouths of its burrows will generally catch several individuals. A female taken January 30, 1889, contained three half-grown embryos.

The haunts of this species and of *Sitomys americanus gossypinus* were as sharply defined as were the wooded or cleared areas. The latter was never found in perfectly cleared fields, while the former did not occur in wooded tracts. In the 'deadenedings,' however, where the trees are killed by girdling, and the crops are planted beneath them, both species were found together, *subgriseus* living in its underground retreats, while *gossypinus* occupied hollow trees or decaying logs.

This difference in haunts is paralleled by the local distribution of *Sitomys niveiventris* and *S. a. gossypinus* on the east peninsula of Indian River. There *niveiventris* is confined to the immediate vicinity of the beach where the only growth is the low, scrub palmetto (*Chamaerops serrulata*). In ground of this nature *gossypinus* is rare or wanting, but as one goes inland the palmetto gradually gives way to live oak, and at the same time *gossypinus* replaces *niveiventris*. The paler coloration of *niveiventris* as compared with *subgriseus* is thus presumably due to the nature of its haunts.

*Sitomys niveiventris* and its representative interior race *S. n. subgriseus*, bear no close relationship to any known member of the genus to which they belong. With the exception of the diminutive *Sitomys taylori* (Thomas) of Southern Texas they are the smallest members of the genus which have thus far been described. As compared with *Sitomys americanus*, their prominent external characters, aside from color, are their smaller size, relatively shorter tail and longer hind feet, and shorter pelage.

Cranial differences are apparently to be found only in size and proportions. *S. niveiventris* and *S. n. subgriseus* have a relatively broader skull than has *S. americanus*, and the brain-case is more depressed posteriorly; the ascending arch of the maxillary is actually as wide as that of *S. americanus*, and therefore is relatively wider.



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## ERRATA.

- Page 27, line 2 from bottom, for Tachico read Pachico.  
 " 28, lines 6 and 18 from bottom, for Sonora read Chihuahua.  
 " 33, last line, for *Callipepla elegans* (*Less.*) read *Callipepla elegans bensoni* *Ridgw.*  
 " 127, lines 10 and 29 from top, for Sclater read Sharpe.  
 " 128, lines 11 and 27 from top, for Sclater read Sharpe.

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