

## Article II.—DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF SOUTH AMERICAN MURIDÆ.

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For the material on which are based the descriptions of the two species of South American Muridæ here described I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Oldfield Thomas, Curator of Mammals in the British Museum, who in referring the specimens to me for determination kindly gave me permission to publish any species that proved to be new. He has also permitted me to retain some of the duplicates for this Museum, the types being very properly returned to the British Museum.

### *Zygodontomys thomasi*,<sup>1</sup> sp. nov.

*Type*. ♀ ad., Campo Alegre, Venezuela, 90 miles south of Cumana (alt. 1625 feet), May 4, 1899. Collector's No. 416. Type in British Museum.

Color above pale yellowish brown, clearest or most pronounced on the lower back and rump, and slightly darkened with black-tipped hairs, especially over the middle of the dorsal region; paler and grayer on the sides; sides of muzzle pale yellowish; below whitish gray, the hairs being plumbeous broadly tipped with soiled white; ears rather large, pale brown, clothed with fine short hairs; upper surface of both fore and hind feet pale buffy white, soles light brown, palms flesh-color; tail short, dark brown above, much lighter, grayish brown beneath.

*Measurements*<sup>2</sup>.—Type, head and body, 125 mm.; tail, 99; hind foot, 23; ear, 18. Another specimen, ♂ ad., from Quebara Secca: Head and body, 116; tail, 101; hind foot, 26; ear, 17. Another ♂, young adult, from Campo Alegre: Head and body, 113; tail, 100; hind foot, 25; ear, 17.

*Skull* (type), occipital portion lacking, gives the following: Nasals to posterior border of parietals, 27; nasals, 12; palatal length, 13.3; zygomatic breadth, 16; interorbital breadth, 5; palatine foramina, 6.2 x 2.2; upper molar series, 4.

This species is based on three specimens, collected at Campo Alegre, Cumana, Venezuela, at altitudes varying from 1350 to 1625 feet, Feb. 2 and 7, and May 4, 1899, sent to me for examination by Mr. Oldfield Thomas, and on an additional specimen (Am. Mus. No. 14731, ♂ ad.), from a neighboring locality. In general form and proportions it resembles *Z. brevicauda* (All. &

<sup>1</sup> Named for Mr. Oldfield Thomas, to whom I am indebted for valued assistance.

<sup>2</sup> Collector's measurements, from the fresh specimen.

Chapm.) from the Island of Trinidad, but it differs from it in being fully one third smaller and very much paler in coloration.

### **Sigmodon simonsi**, sp. nov.

*Type*, ♂ ad., Eten, coast region of northwestern Peru (alt.) 10 to 15 m., Sept. 6, 1899; coll. P. O. Simons. Collector's No. 552. Type in British Museum.

Above pale buffy gray varied with black-tipped hairs; sides of head below eyes, and a well defined eyering, clear buff; nose and sides of muzzle pale ochraceous buff; whole underparts pale buff; ears finely haired, colored externally like the surrounding pelage, buff internally; upper surface of fore and hind feet pale buff, the hind feet a little darker than the fore feet; tail well covered with short stiff hairs, dusky brown above, lighter and more buffy brown below.

*Measurements*.<sup>1</sup>—Type, head and body, 155 mm.; tail, 100; hind foot, 29; ear, 23. Five adult specimens (4 males, 1 female) measure: Head and body, 151 (134–164); tail, 98 (93–100); hind foot, 30 (29–31); ear, 21 (20–23).

*Skull*.—Posterior border of palate thickened and depressed; rostral portion of skull convex, the nasals markedly decurved anteriorly; skull in general broad and heavily ossified. Dentition very heavy. Total length, 35.7; basal length, 23.5; palate, 16; nasals, 12.4; zygomatic breadth, 20.3; mastoid breadth, 14.7; interorbital breadth, 6; palatine foramina, 7 × 2; upper molar series, 7.

This species is based on a series of five specimens collected at Eten, coast region of northwestern Peru, in September and October, 1899, by Mr. P. O. Simons, after whom the species is named. They are all practically adult, and all males except one.

*Sigmodon simonsi* is very distinct from any previously described species of the genus from South America. In the pale coloration of the dorsal surface it most nearly resembles *S. hispidus texianus*, and in the buffy ventral surface recalls *S. minimus* Mearns from Arizona, and *S. fulviventris* Allen from western Mexico. Its nearest geographical representative is *S. peruanus* Allen, from which it differs in the much broader and heavier skull of the latter, and also very strongly in coloration. *S. simonsi* is obviously a pale, desert type, while *S. peruanus* is as deeply colored as *S. bogotensis* or *S. sanctæ-martæ*. *S. peruanus* is very unlike the two last-named species, however, in cranial characters. *S. bogotensis* and *S. sanctæ-martæ*, it may be added, prove to be very closely related *inter se*.

<sup>1</sup> By the collector, from fresh specimens.