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NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE AKODONT  
RODENT, *AKODON MOLLIS*, IN ECUADOR WITH  
A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE

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THE common olive-colored field mouse of the Ecuadorian Andes, *Akodon mollis altorum* Thomas, has been known to range from Quito southward into Peru. Present material, collected by me, indicates that the range of *altorum* may extend northward into southern Colombia. A series of seven specimens which were taken at an altitude of 2000 meters in the arid subtropical Río Chota Valley in Imbabura Province, north of Quito, appears to differ from specimens of *altorum* from the paramos of Mount Pichincha (3000-4000 meters) only by a somewhat shorter pelage. Ten specimens, collected at 2700 meters in the temperate-zone rain forest of the eastern Andes in Carchi Province, near the Colombian border, do not differ consistently in any one character from the Mount Pichincha specimens. Apparently, despite the diversity of their habitats, populations of this mouse exist practically undifferentiated from each other over the entire inter-Andean plateau and upward on the inner slopes of the eastern and western Cordilleras of the Ecuadorian Andes to near the snow line. The above specimens vary in color from buffy olive to dark grayish olive.

A series of specimens from the outer, or western, slope of the western Andes is markedly different, especially in coloration, and may be known as

*Akodon mollis fulvescens*, new subspecies

HOLOTYPE.—Adult male, skin with skull, U.M.M.Z.<sup>1</sup> No. 77281; collected December 16, 1934, by Philip Hershkovitz; original No. M338. Paratypes, 1 subadult and 3 adult females and 2 adult males, skins with skulls, U.M.M.Z. Nos. 77278–80 and 77282–84.

TYPE LOCALITY.—The Río Mira Valley, parish of La Carolina,<sup>2</sup> Ibarra, Imbabura Province, Ecuador; subtropical forest of the western slope of the western Andes; altitude about 900 meters.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known from the type locality only.

DIAGNOSIS.—Distinguished from the olivaceous *A. m. altorum* by dominantly brownish coloration and by broadly truncated proximal ends of the nasals. In *altorum* the tips of the nasals are subangular, occasionally narrowly truncated.

COLORATION OF HOLOTYPE.<sup>3</sup>—Head, back, and rump dominantly Tawny-Olive; hairs, slaty at bases, ringed subterminally Tawny-Olive, minutely tipped with black; black guard hairs inconspicuous; sides of body slightly paler than back; narrow lateral line, Warm Buff; hairs on belly, chest, and inner sides of hind legs, broadly banded Warm Buff terminally, the Slate-Gray basal parts visible at the surface; throat and under surface of forelegs, gray washed with Light Buff; forefeet, pale brown above and beneath; hind feet brown above, darker beneath; tail, brownish above, buffy beneath.

The paratypes are remarkably uniform and quite similar to the holotype in coloration.

<sup>1</sup> University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

<sup>2</sup> Incorporates the well-known collecting locality, "Paramba," once an hacienda, now abandoned.

<sup>3</sup> Capitalized color terms are from Robert Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature* (Washington: Published by the Author, 1912), 44 pp., 53 pls.

MEASUREMENTS (in mm.).—The first measurement, of the holotype, is followed by the means and extremes of the type series, 7 specimens, including the holotype. External (taken from the freshly killed animal): head and body, 95, 96.5 (78–116); tail, 76, 73.2 (68–77); hind foot (*s. u.*), 22, 21.7 (21–22); ear from notch, 18, 17.3 (16–18). Skull: greatest length, —, 27.6 (26.5–28.5, 4 specimens); condylobasal length, 26.0, 25.7 (24.5–26.8, 5 specimens); zygomatic breadth, 14.5, 14.3 (14.1–14.5, 2 specimens); least interorbital breadth, 4.6, 4.7 (4.6–4.9); length of nasals, —, 9.4 (9.0–9.9, 6 specimens); brain case (greatest width across parietals), 11.6, 11.6 (11.5–11.9, 4 specimens); palatal bridge, 3.7, 3.7 (3.2–3.9); palatine foramina, 5.9, 5.5 (5.3–6.1); diastema, 7.0, 6.7 (6.1–7.2); alveolar length of upper molar row, 4.2, 4.2 (4.1–4.5).

REMARKS.—*Akodon mollis* is the only species of typical *Akodon* known to occur in Ecuador. It is here represented by *A. m. altorum* in the Sierra and by *A. m. fulvescens* in the Occidente.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*Akodon mollis fulvescens*: Río Mira Valley, 7 (U.M.M.Z.). *A. m. altorum*: Mount Pichincha, 3000–4000 meters, 3 (A.N.S.P.)<sup>4</sup>; Río Chota Valley, Pimampiro, Imbabura, 2000 meters, 7 (U.M.M.Z.); Atal, near San Gabriel, Carchi, 2700 meters, 10 (U.M.M.Z.).

I wish to express my thanks to the authorities of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for the loan of the three specimens recorded above.

<sup>4</sup> Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

