

NOMENCLATURAL CHANGE OF *CHAETODIPUS DALQUESTI*

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ABSTRACT.—The pocket mouse from the southern Baja California peninsula, *Chaetodipus dalquesti*, is synonymized to *Chaetodipus ammophilus*, following the Principle of Priority of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, because *C. ammophilus* was described before *C. dalquesti*. The subspecies are reassigned.

RESUMEN.—La especie de ratón de abazones del sur de la Península de Baja California, *Chaetodipus dalquesti*, es sinonimizada a *Chaetodipus ammophilus* por el Principio de Prioridad, según el Código de Nomenclatura Zoológica vigente, ya que *C. ammophilus* fue descrita con anterioridad que *C. dalquesti*. Se reasigna la nomenclatura correcta para las subespecies.

Chaetodipus dalquesti (Roth 1976) has been considered an endemic species of the Cape Region of the southern part of the Baja California peninsula. In a revision of the heteromyid rodents, *C. dalquesti* was considered a synonym of *Chaetodipus arenarius* (Williams et al. 1993), because both have an identical karyotype (Hafner and Hafner 1983). However, *C. dalquesti* and *C. arenarius* are genetically distinguishable and morphologically diagnosable based on pelage and morphometric characters (Riddle et al. 2000, Álvarez-Castañeda and Rios 2011).

A recent analysis of populations of *C. arenarius* from the Baja California peninsula (Álvarez-Castañeda and Rios 2011), showed that the subspecies *C. a. ammophilus* (Osgood 1907) and *C. a. sublucidus* (Nelson and Goldman 1929) could be considered as subspecies of *C. dalquesti*, instead of *C. arenarius*, increasing the range for *C. dalquesti* from the Magdalena Plain to all of the Cape Region. Nevertheless, in their revision, Álvarez-Castañeda and Rios (2011) maintained *C. dalquesti* Roth 1976 in place of *Chaetodipus ammophilus* Osgood 1907; they did not apply the Principle of Priority following the Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 23.1, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/>), which states that the name of a taxon is the oldest available name applied to it. Given that *C. ammophilus* was described earlier, all pocket mice previously designated as *C. dalquesti* must be named as

C. ammophilus. Hence, *dalquesti* should be considered a subspecific taxon of *C. ammophilus*, an endemic species from the southern part of the Baja California peninsula. The current subspecies include *C. a. ammophilus* (Osgood 1907), which is restricted to Margarita Island on the Pacific side of the peninsula; *C. a. dalquesti* (Roth 1976), which occupies the Pacific coastal area from the Magdalena Plain to all of the Cape Region of the State of Baja California Sur; and *C. a. sublucidus* (Nelson and Goldman 1929), which occurs in the coastal area near the Bahía de La Paz, with the exception of the El Mogote sand spit.

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