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ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE DARK KANGAROO MOUSE
(*MICRODIPODOPS MEGACEPHALUS NASUTUS*),
WITH A NEW MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

Harold J. Egoscue¹

ABSTRACT.— Three specimens of *Microdipodops megacephalus nasutus* were captured in the Wassuk Mountains of western Mineral County, Nevada, which provide a second place of occurrence for the subspecies and a new altitudinal record of 2455 m for the genus. This is the first time this species has been found in the pinyon-juniper belt.

Records of *Microdipodops megacephalus nasutus* Hall have not been published since the taxon was named (Hall 1941) from six specimens collected at Fletcher, Mineral County, Nevada.

On 10 and 11 September 1980, I collected three specimens referable to *M. m. nasutus* about 600 m northeast of Lucky Boy Pass summit, at a place 19.3 km south of the summit of Mt. Grant (Wassuk Range) and 16.1 km southwest of Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada, elevation about 2455 m (8050 ft). These records provide a second place of occurrence for the subspecies and a maximum known elevation for the genus.

The mice were trapped in a small, dry basin, where the primary vegetation was a mixture of big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata*, and pinyon pine, *Pinus monophylla*, with an occasional Utah juniper, *Juniperus osteosperma*. Other plants were bitterbrush, *Purshia tridentata*, rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus* sp., at least three species of *Eriogonum*, and two of *Phlox*. Grasses were sparse and consisted mostly of rice grass, *Oryzopsis* sp., and an unidentified bunchgrass. The sagebrush averaged about 72 cm tall and had thick trunks in relationship to height that often characterizes this shrub when it has been overbrowsed. The light tan soil was made up of coarse sand and fine gravel that apparently originated from extensive ledges of granitelike material nearby.

Other small mammals captured here were the sagebrush vole, *Lagurus curtatus curtatus*

and deer mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus sonoriensis*. The association of *Lagurus* and *Microdipodops* is unusual; E. R. Hall (pers. comm.) informed me that he had never caught these species together.

The kangaroo mice were an adult male, a subadult female, and a juvenile female. Standard body measurements of the male were: 143, 74, 25, 9. This individual is appreciably smaller in both total length and length of tail than topotypes of *M. m. nasutus* (Hall 1941), but agrees in color, lack of supraorbital patches, amount of black on the distal part of the tail, and skull characteristics reported for the subspecies. The adult male and subadult female were prepared as specimens and will be deposited in the mammal collection of the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Although the extension of range is not great in distance, this is the first locality on the east side of the main mountain range of western Mineral County, where the dark kangaroo mouse has been found and suggests that the species may be more widely distributed in this part of Nevada than supposed.

According to Hall (1946), the altitudinal limits of *Microdipodops megacephalus* are 1189.5–2318 m (av. about 1677.5 m). Of 100 locations where the mice were recorded in Nevada, only one is over 2135 m (7000 ft). Zonally, Hall's localities are Upper and Lower Sonoran, mostly the former. None are in the pinyon-juniper belt.

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