

As I have elsewhere pointed out⁶, this species was named by Gray in 1843¹, but, as he gave no description, M. de Saussure's title will stand. The latter author subsequently described a second Mexican species as *Reithrodon sumichrasti*⁸; but it is impossible to distinguish it by the characters given, and I am convinced that it is merely founded on an unusually brightly coloured example of *O. mexicanus*, which seems to gain a greater brilliancy of tint in the more southern parts of its range. Some of Mr. Salvin's Guatemalan specimens were referred by Mr. Tomes to *O. longicauda* (Bd.); but I have been unable to confirm his identification, and agree with Dr. Coues in feeling great doubt as to the existence of that species in Central America.

Nothing special has been recorded of the habits of this species, which doubtless resemble those of the last named. Dr. Coues remarks that one of the specimens of *O. mexicanus* in the Washington Museum "is a perfect albino, pure white everywhere, and doubtless had pink eyes"⁷.

4. SIGMODON.

Sigmodon, Say & Ord, Journ. Acad. Philad. iv. p. 352 (1825).

The generic distinction of the Cotton-Rat from the other American Mice has been generally recognized, though Dr. Coues has latterly expressed doubts as to its being more aberrant than some of the subgenera of *Hesperomys**. Externally it may be best distinguished from the subgenus *Oryzomys* by its blunt muzzle, large ears, and long hind feet, of which the first and fifth toes are subequal and very short. In the skull the perpendicular plate of the zygoma is emarginated, the supraorbital ridges well marked and sharp, and the incisive foramina long. The molars are usually stated not to be tuberculate at any age (Dr. Coues says the tubercles are lost so early that he has not been able to observe the primitive unworn condition); and the indenting enamel-folds are deep and closed, usually giving a somewhat imperfect *sigma* pattern on the crown of at least the posterior teeth, and thus suggesting the name of the genus, of which only one species appears to be well established.

1. *Sigmodon hispidus*.

Sigmodon hispidum, Say & Ord, Journ. Ac. Philad. iv. p. 354, pl. x. (1825, descr. orig.)¹.

Sigmodon hispidus, Baird, Mamm. N. Am. p. 502²; Coues, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1874, p. 176³; Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 36⁴.

Sigmodon berlandieri, Baird, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1855, p. 333 (descr. orig.)⁵; Mamm. N. Am. p. 504⁶; Rep. U.S. Mex. Bound. Surv. ii. Mamm. p. 46⁷; Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 281⁸.

Hesperomys (*Deilemys*) *toltecus*, de Saussure, Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1860, p. 98, pl. 10. figs. 3, 3a (descr. orig.)⁹.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, from South Carolina southwards⁴.—MEXICO (*Cuming, Warwick,*

* Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 32.