

The two species of *Geomys* found within our limits may be easily recognized by the following striking characters:—

1. *G. mexicanus*. Upper incisors with a single *median* groove; feet and tail hairy; fur soft and shining. Brownish or reddish grey above, paler beneath; length of head and body 10" to 11", of tail 3".
2. *G. hispidus*. Upper incisors with one groove on the *inner half* of the tooth; feet and tail nearly naked; fur stiff and coarse. Dull chocolate-brown above, paler beneath; length of head and body 12", of tail 3".

The only other species in which the incisors have only one groove is *G. castanops* (Baird) of Texas and New Mexico, a much smaller animal, of a pale yellow-brown colour, passing into chestnut on the head.

1. *Geomys mexicanus*.

Ascomys mexicanus, Lichtenstein, Abh. Ak. Berlin, 1827, p. 113 (1830, descr. orig.)¹; Charlesworth, P. Z. S. 1841, p. 60².

Geomys mexicanus, Baird, Mamm. N. Am. p. 387³; Coues, Rep. Powell's Expl. Colorado River, p. 236⁴; Proc. Ac. Philad. 1875, p. 133⁵; Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 617⁶.

Tucan seu *Talpa Indica*, Hernandez, Quad. Nov. Hisp. fol. 7, cap. xxiv.

Tuça, *Tuza*, of Mexicans.

Hab. MEXICO (*Uhde*, *Deppe*, *Mus. Berol.*¹; *Liebmann*, *Mus. Hafn.*; *Geale*, *Mus. Brit.*), Jalapa (*de Oca*, *U.S. Nat. Mus.*⁶).

There can be hardly a doubt that the Mexican Pocket-Gopher is the *Tucan* of Hernandez, and consequently the earliest-known species of the family, though it was first systematically named by Lichtenstein in 1830¹. Little is known of its exact distribution in Mexico, but it appears to inhabit the central highlands; in some places it occurs along with the next species, specimens of both having been sent by de Oca to the Smithsonian Institution from Jalapa⁶. Dr. Coues quotes Berlandier's unpublished manuscripts to the effect that *G. mexicanus* is found in the cold and temperate regions of New Spain⁵; and Mr. Charlesworth also met with it on the central tableland. The latter observer states that the cheek-pouches "are used for the purpose of conveying the soil from its subterranean retreats to the surface of the ground, where the mould is deposited in heaps similar in appearance to those formed by the common Mole"².

The British Museum possesses two examples of melanism in this animal; these specimens, which are without exact localities, are of a very dark glossy brown, but retain irregular patches of their normal colour.

2. *Geomys hispidus*.

Ascomys mexicanus, Eydoux & Gervais, Mag. de Zool. 1836, art. i. p. 23, t. xxi. figg. 5 & 6¹; Voy. de la 'Favorite,' v. Mamm. p. 23, t. viii. figg. 5 & 6 (nec Lichtenstein)².