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Booklet data last updated on 9/18/2009

Mouse, Pygmy, Northern

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Taxonomy

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Species IDa	050475
Name	Mouse, Pygmy, Northern
Other Common Names	Raton Enono Norteno (Hispanic)
Category	05 Mammals
Elcode	AMAFF05010
BLM Code	BATA
Phylum	Chordata
Subphylum	Vertebrata
Class	Mammalia
Subclass	Theria
Order	Rodentia
SubOrder	Myomorpha
Family	Muridae
Genus	Baiomys
Species	taylori
Subspecies	ater (NM,AZ)
Authority	(Blossom and Burt)
Scientific Name	Baiomys taylori ater (NM,AZ)
Account Type	This account represents a full species account with only one subspecies recognized in BISON-M.
Taxonomic References	01 , 02 , 03 , 05 , 06 , 14 , 15

NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME

[Click here to search Google for images of this species.](#)

Comments on Taxonomy

There is confusion on how to classify Old World mice and rats, the New World mice and rats, and the microtines. The tendency is to regard all three groups as subfamilies of one family - Muridae. But for the purposes of the New Mexico system the Old World mice and rats will be placed in the family Muridae, and the New World (and a few Old World) mice and rats will be placed in the family Cricetidae. *05, 06*

Legal Status (section updated on 9/1/2009)

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Status

References

USFS Sensitive: Region 3 (NM,AZ)	30
State NM: Provides limited protection	04, 29
State NM: Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)	29
State NM: Not a Game Species	04
Heritage Global: Apparently Secure (G4)	29
Heritage Global: Demonstrably Secure (G5)	29
Heritage NM: Imperiled in NM (S2)	26
Heritage AZ: Uncommon or Restricted in AZ (S3)	10
Heritage Ranking: Taxon Tracked by Heritage Program	19
Heritage Ranking: See comments	10

Concern

References

No Data Submitted

Comments on Legal Status

1995: Baiomys taylori was listed under the Natural Heritage Global Rank "G4G5" (Global Rank not definitive -- between G4 and G5) ("G4" = "Apparently Secure"; "G5" = "Demonstrably Secure") (AGFD, 1995) *[10](#)*.

This listing was made on May 19, 1987 (NMNHP, 1997) *[26](#)*.

Baiomys taylori ater was listed under the Natural Heritage Global Rank "G4" and "G5" ("G4" = "Apparently Secure") ("G5" = "Demonstrably Secure") (NMDGF, 2006) *[29](#)*.

1995: The species, Baiomys taylori, was being "Watched": data were being passively accumulated and entered into manual files by the Heritage Program (AGFD, 1995) *[10](#)*.

2007: U.S. Forest Service included the species Baiomys taylori ater on its region 3 sensitive species list (USFS, 2007) *[30](#)*.

NEW MEXICO 1996: The species, Baiomys taylori, was listed by a New Mexico Natural Heritage Program list as "Tracked": data were being actively accumulated and entered into computerized and manual files by the Heritage Program (NMNHP, 1996) *[19](#)*.

1997: The full species Baiomys taylori was listed under the Natural Heritage NM State Rank "S2" ("S2" = "Imperiled") on August 5, 1991 (NMNHP, 1997) *[26](#)*.

2006: Baiomys taylori was identified as a species of greatest conservation need in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for New Mexico (NMDGF, 2006) *[29](#)*.

2007: U.S. Forest Service included the species Baiomys taylori its region 3 sensitive species list (USFS, 2007) *09*.

2006: Baiomys taylori ater was listed under the New Mexico Chapter 17 status "Provides limited protection" (NMDGF, 2006) *29*.

ARIZONA 1995: Baiomys taylori was listed under the Natural Heritage Arizona State Rank "S3" ("S3" = "Uncommon or Restricted") (AGFD, 1995) *10*.

Comments on Population Trends and Threats

No Data Submitted

Comments on Cultural Importance

No Data Submitted

Species Distribution (section updated on 9/18/2009)

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State	References
NM: Extant	01
AZ: Extant	10
TX: Species occurs(ed)	13
OK: Species occurs(ed)	17

New Mexico County Occurrence

County	Data	Season	Regular	Abundance	Behavior	References
Hidalgo						01, 08, 30, 31
Luna						31
New Mexico		Yr-Rnd	Regular		Breeds	12

Accident County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Historical County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Expected County Occurrence

No Data Submitted

Arizona County Occurrence

County	Data	References
Cochise		21
Graham		21
Navajo		21
Pima		21

Hydrological Area

No Data Submitted

Historical Hydrological Area

No Data Submitted

Other Distribution - New Mexico

Land Unit

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LANDS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LANDS - GRAY RANCH, (Formerly TNC)

MISCELLANEOUS LAND, NEW MEXICO

MISCELLANEOUS LAND - GUADALUPE CANYON (HIDALGO COUNTY)

Other Distribution References - [18](#), [01?](#)

Other Distribution - Arizona

Land Unit

US FOREST SERVICE LANDS, ARIZONA

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Other Distribution Arizona References - [11](#)

Mountain Range

No Data Submitted

Comments on Distribution

NEW MEXICO 1975: These mice inhabit well-developed grassland, especially such kinds as tall stands of *Sporobolus* in riparian areas, as along Animas Creek Hidalgo County. We also took them in arid grassland at the crest of the Peloncillos and at the west base of the Animas range (Findley et al., 1975) [*01*](#).

1975: Records of occurrence: Specimens examined (total 8): HIDALGO: 18 mi. S and 2 mi. W Animas, 2 (KUM); 25 1/4 mi. S Animas, 1 (MSB); pass on top Peloncillo Mts., Geronimo Trail, 1 (MSB); pass on top Peloncillo Mts., Geronimo Trail, 22 mi S and 2 mi. E Rodeo, 4 (MSB) (Findley et al., 1975) [*01*](#).

1992: On 3 April 1991, a single adult male *B. taylori* was captured by hand in a shallow, grassy, ephemeral streambed along State Highway 26, 1.6 km N, 9.6 km E Nutt (T20S, R5W, SE 1/4 sec. 4) in northeastern Luna County, New Mexico (Stuart and Scott, 1992) [*27*](#).

1992: Systematic mammal trapping since 1984 at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo County, near the north end of the Peloncillo Mountains, indicated that pygmy mice were absent there prior to 1988, but were locally abundant in sacaton grassland habitat in 1989 (B.J. Hayward and C.W. Painter, personal communication) (Stuart and Scott, 1992) [*27*](#).

1993: The subspecies *B.t.ater* is found in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo County, New Mexico (Eifler, pers.comm., 1993) [*18*](#).

1995: (Cook,1986) notes the occurrence of this species in the Animas Mts. area, but they are not found in the mountains themselves (Hafner,1995) [*15*](#).

2004: The species *Balomys taylori* occurs in Hidalgo and Luna counties (Frey, 2004) [*31*](#).

ARIZONA 1986: Found in the southeastern corner of Arizona in the plains and desert grassland vegetative community (Hoffmeister, 1986) [*07*](#).

1996: The northern pigmy mouse, *Baiomys taylori* (subspecies not specified) occurs in Cochise, Graham, Navajo and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona state (AGFD, 1996) [*21*](#).

TEXAS 1987: This species is cited in northwestern Texas and so straddles the Texas/New Mexico border (Jones et al., 1987) *09*.

Baiomys taylori taylori has been recorded in Yoakum County, Texas within approximately 20 miles of the New Mexican border *24*.

OKLAHOMA 1989: Baiomys taylori occurs in Oklahoma (Tyler, 1989) *17*.

Comments on Prehistoric Distribution

No Data Submitted

Habitat Association

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General Habitat

References

RIPARIAN

[30?](#)

RIPARIAN

[01?](#)

LOWLANDS

[28](#)

Comments on Habitat Associations

Indicator of southern arid grasslands (Hafner, 1995) *15*.

THEY ARE FOUND IN SYCAMORE, COTTONWOOD, AND RABBITBRUSH RIPARIAN HABITATS *30*.

Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

Gap Vegetation Type	Season	Gap Importance	References
WOODLANDS	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
ENCINAL OAK open/gray/emory/white oak	Yr-Rnd	Important	28
SCRUB	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
GREAT BASIN sagebrush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	28
GRASS	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
SHORT GRASS STEPPE gramma+buffalograss	Yr-Rnd	Important	1, 7
GREAT BASIN GRASS alkali sacaton	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	28
CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND black grama	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	1, 7
CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND tabosa/sacaton	Yr-Rnd	Important	7, 26
RIPARIAN	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
LOWLAND RIPARIAN cottonwood/sycamore	Yr-Rnd	Important	7
ARROYO RIPARIAN Apache plume/mesquite	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	7, 28
MARSH rush/bulrush/sedge/cattail	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	28

Comments on Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

On 3 April 1991, a single adult male B. taylori was captured by hand in a shallow, grassy, ephemeral streambed along State Highway 26, 1.6 km N, 9.6 km E Nutt (T20S, R5W, SE 1/4 sec. 4) in northeastern Luna County, New Mexico. Vegetation in the streambed was almost entirely dead herbaceous growth and included Johnson grass (Sorghum

halepense), saltgrass (*Distichlis stricta*), sunflower (*Helianthus* sp.), and occasional clumps of dropseed grass (*Sporobolus* sp.). The surrounding rangeland vegetation was primarily tobosa grass (*Hilaria* sp.) with occasional honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) (Stuart and Scott, 1992) *27*.

Systematic mammal trapping since 1984 at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo County, near the north end of the Peloncillo Mountains, indicated that pygmy mice were absent there prior to 1988, but were locally abundant in sacaton grassland habitat in 1989 (B.J. Hayward and C.W. Painter, personal communication). An intensive mammal trapping project by J.H. Brown and other workers at a site near Portal, Cochise County, Arizona (near the New Mexico state line), has been ongoing since July 1977, but *B. taylori* was only first detected there in November 1989 (D.A. Kelt and J.H. Brown, personal communication). Although these changes in abundance may represent localized population fluctuations, they also may indicate a response to recent shifts in climate or land use, favoring the dispersal of the species into previously unoccupied areas of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona (Stuart and Scott, 1992) *27*.

Land Use / Land Cover Associations

Land Use / Land Cover	References
Rangeland	30?, 07?, 01?
Herbaceous Rangeland	30?, 07?, 01?
Forest Land	30?, 07?, 01?
Water	30?, 07?, 01?
Wetland	30?, 07?, 01?
Nonforested Wetland	30?, 07?, 01?

Comments on Land Use / Land Cover Associations

No Data Submitted

National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted

Comments on National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted

Habitat SAF

SAF	References
Cottonwood-willow	
Western live oak	

Habitat PNV

PNV	References
Grama-Tobosa Shrubsteppe (<i>Boutloua</i> - <i>Hilaria</i> - <i>Larrea</i>)	30?

Habitat Eco Regions

Eco Region	References
Great Plains-Short Grass Prairie: Grama-Buffer Grass	30?

Habitat Life Zones

No Data Submitted

Comments on General Habitat Associations

Northern pygmy mice are found in shortgrass plains, sactan grassland, sycamore, cottonwood, rabbitbrush, oak savanna, oak woodland *30*.

Northern pygmy mice inhabit well-developed grassland, especially such kinds as tall stands of Sporobolus in riparian areas, as along Animas Creek Hidalgo County. We also took them in arid grassland at the crest of the Peloncillos and at the west base of the Animas range *01*.

Northern pygmy mice have a limited distribution in Arizona but where they occur they are most often found in plains and desert grassland vegetation. A favorite place is in good stands of galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*). We have taken them also among grama, sacaton, mesquite, and yucca and from a "drift" pile of weeds that had accumulated on top of thick grasses. Philip Blossom caught the type series from near Hereford in an area of tall grass and weeds interspersed with much thread-leaved groundsel. They were taken in the heavy vegetation along an infrequently used road (in 1941) in the runways of cotton rats. Between the road and the fence the vegetation was not grazed but rather had a protective cover of dead weeds and grasses as well as some new grasses. At Patagonia, Santa Cruz County pygmy mice were taken in grassy fields with a considerable amount of tall grass. One was taken in a grassy swale surrounded by mesquite and creosote bushes, where there were numerous cotton rat runways through the grass *07*.

Food Habits

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No Data Submitted

Trophic Comments

No Data Submitted

LifeStage	Food Item Consumed	Part of Food Item
General	PLANTS	Fruit/Seeds/Cones

Comments on Food Habits - General

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Important

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Adult

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Juvenile

No Data Submitted

Comments on Food Habits - Larval

No Data Submitted

Environmental Associations

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LifeStage	Environmental Associations
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Feeding Adult	See Comments On Environmental Associations
General	Elevation: 4001-5000 ft. (1220 - 1520 m)
General	Elevation: 5001-6000 ft. (1520 - 1830 m)
General	Elevation: 6001-7000 ft. (1830 - 2130 m)
General	Elevation: 7001-8000 ft. (2130 - 2440 m)
General	Elevation: Specified in Comments
General	Terrestrial Features: Woodlands
General	Grassland: Savannas - Mixed grass and trees
General	Grassland: Semi-desert - Yucca\Black gramma
General	Tree Distribution in Stand: Savannah (very open)
LifeStage	References
General	30
Comments on General Environmental Associations	
They are found in elevations above 1675m *30* .	
We also took them in arid grassland at the crest of the Peloncillos and at the west base of the Animas range *01* .	
ARIZONA Northern pygmy mice have a limited distribution in Arizona but where they occur they are most often found in plains and desert grassland vegetation. They were taken in the heavy vegetation along an infrequently used road (in 1941) in the runways of cotton rats. They are found in places that receive more than the usual amount of water *07* .	
Comments on Limiting Environmental Associations	
No Data Submitted	
Comments on Adult Environmental Associations	
No Data Submitted	
Comments on Breeding Adult Environmental Associations	
No Data Submitted	
Comments on Feeding Adult Environmental Associations	
ARIZONA The overhead weeds together with the grasses appeared to provide a good supply of seeds and a protective cover while foraging. It is possible that if Baiomys is to be a successful competitor for seeds, then the area would have to receive large amounts of water as runoff (as hypothesized by Michael Rosenzweig). Thus natural or man-make swales, as along the sides of roads, that catch water might be necessary for these mice *07* .	
Comments on Resting Adult Environmental Associations	
No Data Submitted	
Comments on Juvenile Environmental Associations	
No Data Submitted	

Comments on Resting Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Resting Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Pupa Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Comments on Egg Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

Life History[Back to top](#)**Description**

Baiomys resembles a very small juvenile Peromyscus. No adult Peromyscus is so small as an adult Baiomys, as indicated in the key. From Reithrodontomys, Baiomys differs in lacking grooves on the upper incisors. Although superficially resembling Mus, Baiomys differs in having two, rather than three, longitudinal rows of cusps in the upper molars, and usually in having a hairier, shorter tail *01*.

ARIZONA A small species of Baiomys with small hind feet (usually 14 mm or less), skull short (with occipitonasal length usually less than 19 mm) and narrow (zygomatic breadth less than 10 mm), hyoid with the entoglossal process on the basihyal greatly reduced or absent, baculum small *07*.

Reproduction

ARIZONA In Arizona, pygmy mice have an average litter size of 2.49 young, judging from the laboratory evidence of Quadagno and Banks (1970). The gestation period is 20 days, but this is increased by approximately two days for each young the female is nursing. The estrous cycle is 7.51 +/- 1.75 days. Females reach sexual maturity at between 60 and 70 days; males between 70 and 80 days (Quadagno and Banks). In Texas, a female produced nine litters in 202 days, or one litter every 25 days (Blair, 1941:379). If females in the wild in Arizona are this prolific, few must reach a size to get caught judging from our trapping success. We did catch young animals, probably one- and-one-half to two months old on January 26, February 2 and 16, and August 16 *07*.

Behavior

In captivity, northern pygmy mice are often heard to give audible sounds. As with the grasshopper mice, they point their noses upward when they give the sound *07*.

Species Origin

No Data Submitted

Limiting Factors

No Data Submitted

Population Attributes

No Data Submitted

Life History Codes

Origin: Native to NM

Gestation/Incubation Period: 3-4 weeks (15-28 days)

Gestation/Incubation Period: Specified in Comments

Reproduction: Viviparous/Ovoviviparous (live bearing)

Birth/Hatching of young: Specified in Comments

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: Specified in comments

Reproductive Efforts per Year: Specified in Comments

Life History Code References - 07, 25**Comments on Life History Codes**

+1199+ Gestation period is 20 days, but this is increased by approximately two days for each young the female is nursing *07*.

+1599+ Young animals taken, probably one-and-one-half to two months old on January 26, February 2 and 16, and August 16 *07*.

+2199+ In Arizona, pygmy mice have an average litter size of 2.49 (Quadagno and Banks, 1970) *07*.

+2399+ In Texas, a female produced nine litters in 202 days, or one litter every 25 days (Blair, 1941:379) *07*.

(1995) Previously, pygmy mice have not been taken in large numbers at their most northern distribution limit in southwestern New Mexico; however, in two trapping sessions in march, 1982, I captured 37 mice in the sacaton grassland where previous intensive trappings had revealed only one. Several traps contained two individuals each. One pregnant female (two embryos, 4mm.) was collected (Cook,1986)*16*.

Comments on Species Association

A favorite place for northern pygmy mice is in good stands of galleta *07*.

Wildlife Disease and Parasites

No Data Submitted

Comments on Disease

No Data Submitted

Management Practices[Back to top](#)**Comments on Special or Standard Techniques**

AGING -- Skulls can be put into five groups on the basis of wear on molar teeth. In group 1, M3 is just breaking through the jaw; group 2, M3 has the lingual cusps worn smooth but M1-2 show little wear; group 3, M3 is worn smooth and M1-2 with lingual cusps almost worn smooth; group 4, all lingual cusps worn smooth and labial cusps showing considerable wear; group 5, all cusps worn smooth and pattern mostly obliterated. Groups 4 and 5 can be combined and regarded as "adults" in the measurements and analyses, unless otherwise stated *07*.

Effects

Adverse

Adverse

Management Action

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC) Chemical

ADC: Zinc Phosphide, above ground (grain bait)

Effects

Adverse

References[22](#), [23](#)**Comments on Management Practices**

No Data Submitted

Comments on Animal Damage Control Methods

NOTE: The BISON-M coding of potential impacts of ADC practices (e.g., M-44's, traps, snares and poisons) in the "RESULTS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES" (MGT.FIELD & MGT fields) section, assumes the practice occurs in occupied habitat and is applied without mitigation. For more information, contact Jon Klingel, Conservation Services Division, NM Dept of Game and Fish. Santa Fe, NM. Zinc phosphide is highly toxic to rodents (USDA, 1994)*22* and (Johnson and Fagerstone, 1994)*23*.

Comments on Recommended Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Historical Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Population Status

No Data Submitted

References[Back to top](#)

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