
AN OBSERVATION OF SWIMMING BY THE GRASSHOPPER MOUSE.¹—Observations of swimming by the northern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys leucogaster*), a prairie-land mouse, were made as part of a study of the ethogram of this species. The observations were made in a half-cylinder tank 20.5 feet long by 4 feet wide, and containing a maximum depth of 13½ inches of water. A stationary platform was placed at water level across the center of the tank.

Four males and one female, at different times, were placed on the platform and held for five minutes in a bottomless cage. The cage was then slowly lifted off the platform and the animal observed for a 15-minute period. During this observation period, each animal, in addition to exploring the platform, went to the edge of the platform and sniffed the water, but none of them entered the water. At the end of the observation period, as a hand was reached in to catch them, three of the mice (the female and two of the males) ran around the platform and then, very hesitantly, jumped into the water. They swam toward one end of the tank and then back to the platform, climbed onto the platform, and did not go back into the water again. These mice swam distances of 16, 20, and 35 feet, by "dog paddling" with their forefeet and kicking with their hind feet in unison. The other two males never entered the water. Thus, it appears that, though swimming is not a usual behavioral pattern, under the conditions of this study, it could be used as a means of escape when no other was available.

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