


OCCURRENCE OF AN ALBINO MICROTUS PENNSYLVANICUS IN OHIO.

Changes in coat color involving aberrations from the normal agouti pattern have been reported for several species of Microtus. The diversity of color changes for this genus has been summarized by Owen and Shakelford (1942), Frank and Zimmermann (1957), and Pinter and Negus (1971). Albino M. pennsylvanicus have been reported only by Dunn (1921), Hatt (1930), Snyder (1930), Owen and Shakelford (1942), and Sillman and Wellwood (1956). However, in several of these reports there was question as to eye color or exact history of certain museum specimens.

An albino M. pennsylvanicus was captured by hand during fall plowing on the farm of Ernst Hively located in Butler County, Ohio, on 23 October 1971. This scrotal male was totally white with pink eyes and weighed 40.5 grams. It had the following length measurements (mm): total 152, tail 43, hind foot 19, ear 9, skull 27, and testes 8.5. Breeding was attempted with four different known fertile females but was unsuccessful.

The animal died after being kept in captivity for nearly a year while fed a diet of rolled oats, apples, lettuce, wild bird seed, and Purina lab chow. This represents the first record of an albino Microtus for Ohio. This specimen has been catalogued A-16874 in the zoological collections of the Dayton Museum of Natural History. —GARY W. BARRETT, Department of Zoology and Institute of Environmental Sciences, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

REFERENCES


