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DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON THE THICK-SPINED RAT (HOPLOMYS GYMNURUS) WITH THE FIRST RECORDS FROM HONDURAS

The thick-spined rat, Hoplomys gymnurus, is a terrestrial rodent apparently limited to forest or forest edge in northwestern South America and Central America. The northernmost record for the species was given by Handley (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 139(4):1–10, 1959) as the Nicaraguan side of the Rio Coco, which forms part of the boundary between Honduras and Nicaragua. Buchanan and Howell (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 13, 8:549–559, 1965) subsequently reported this rat from Leicus Creek in northeastern Nicaragua. Specimens of H. g. truei in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC) now provide an additional record for Nicaragua and the first records from Honduras.

Between 11 and 14 May 1963, Dilford C. Carter, Duane C. Gall, and Robert W. Adams collected a male and four females (TCWC 10639–43) at a place 78 mi. ENE Danlí (± 270 meters), on the Río Coco, Depto. de Olancho, Honduras. At least two of the Hoplomys were shot in the evening at the edge of a creek where the undergrowth was dense. One of the females had several pure white spines on the lower back, another had but one.

On 14 April 1967 another H. g. truei (TCWC 19962) was taken by Carter in a rain forest 40 km E Catacamas (500 meters), Depto. de Olancho, Honduras. This locality is 50 to 60 kilometers from the Nicaraguan border. The camp was on Quebrada Campamento near the end of a trail from Río Tinto. The specimen, a female, was lactating and contained three small embryos.

A Nicaraguan specimen (TCWC 19963) was shot 14 May 1967 by Richard K. LaVal at El Castillo (40 meters), Depto. Río San Juan.

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MANDIBULAR DENTAL ANOMALIES IN WHITE-TAILED DEER FROM MINNESOTA

This paper reports on abnormalities in the mandibular dentition of 36 white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) from Minnesota. Thirteen anomalies were discovered during laboratory examination of jaws from 142 deer killed by wolves (Canis lupus) and 259 killed by hunters. The animals had lived in or near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of the Superior National Forest in northern St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties and were taken in 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969. Photographs of these abnormalities, and the age and sex of the deer from which the specimens were taken will be published elsewhere (Mech and Frenzel, unpublished data).