

Brush Mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*)



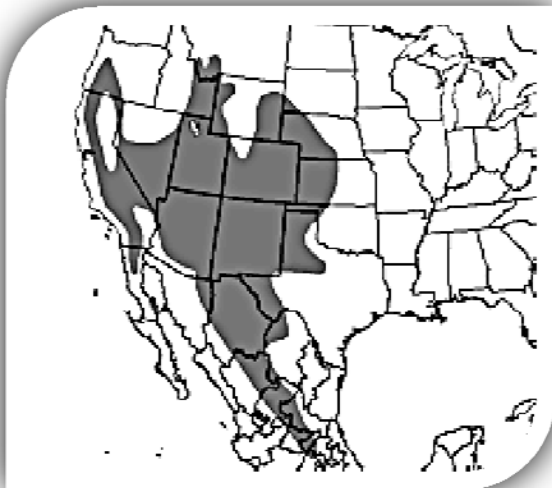
Taxonomy:

Family Cricetidae. There are 4 recognized subspecies, including the regional form *Peromyscus boylii utahensis*.

Description:

The back is a medium brown with the sides being paler brown, grading to white or cream on the underside. There is a broad, orange lateral line that runs from the cheek to the hindquarters. The tail is bicolored: white underneath and dark gray above and is tufted at the end. It is smaller than *Peromyscus maniculatus* and has a longer tail.

Total Length: 175-210 mm; Length of Tail: 89-115 mm; Weight: 22-36 g.



Distribution: Northern California and Nevada to central Mexico and as far east as Kansas. Occurs in brush habitat at mid-elevations along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and Diet:

The brush mouse inhabits rock outcroppings and brushy or forested areas at elevations greater than 2,000 meters. Although it is an adept climber and may sometimes nest in tree cavities, it generally nests in rock crevices or under boulders or fallen trees. They eat a variety of fruits, nuts and seeds as well as some small invertebrates.

Life History:

Brush mice breed throughout most of the year, although most of the young are born in the spring and early summer. Gestation lasts 23 days and litters usually have 2-5 young; it is common for one female to have several litters per year. The young are fully weaned at 3-4 weeks of age.

Reference: Bradley and Schmidly 1999.