

SMURF

Species Identification Guide



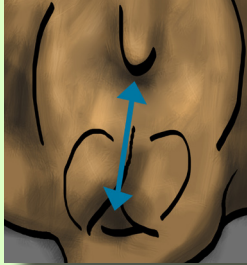
*Illustrations by Shelby Thompson
Photos by Gabriella Reynosa unless otherwise specified*

Good to Know

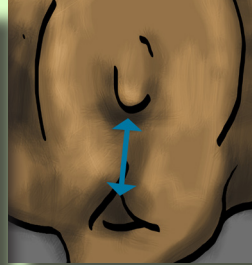
Tips & Supplemental Info

Male vs Female: Distance of Genitals & Anus

Testes are not always visible on males, and nipples are most prominent on females when they are lactating. The urethra is long for males and short for females.



Male



Female

Juvenile vs. Adult

Juveniles tend to be grayer and much smaller than adults. Due to their quick maturation, the mice we catch are primarily adults.



P. maniculatus : **juvenile** (left) and **adult** (right)

Hantavirus

Avoid direct contact with feces, urine, and saliva of *P. maniculatus*. This species is known to transmit this rare but serious respiratory disease that can cause failure of the heart and lungs.

For more, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/hps/index.html>

Reithrodontomys megalotis

Western Harvest Mouse



Alan Harper



J.N. Stuart

Measurements

Ear Length: 10-16 mm

Tail Length: 60-80 mm

Hind Foot Length: 12-19 mm

Body: 47-73 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: brown, reddish-brown
buff on back
gray/white belly

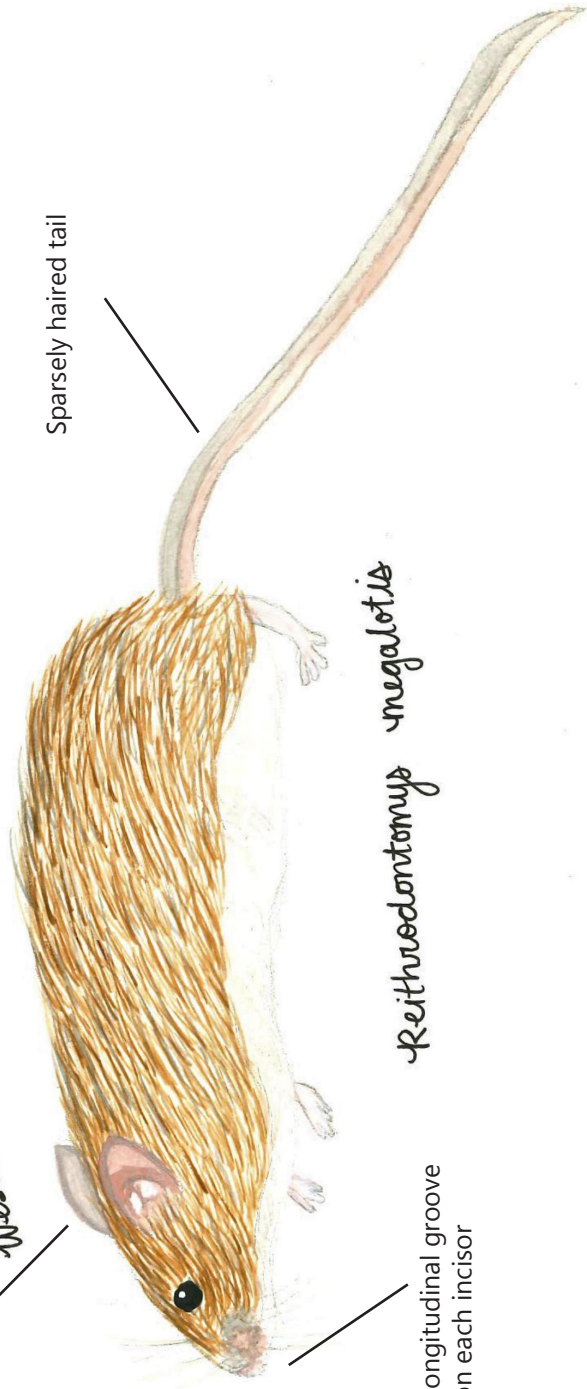
Ears: large, round, naked

Tail: no tuft, no bicolouration, sparsely
haired

Reserve(s): FONR

Naked ears

Western harvest mouse



Sparsely haired tail

Reithrodontomys megalotis

Longitudinal groove
on each incisor

Sorex trowbridgii

Trowbridge's Shrew



Measurements

Ear Length: 5-7 mm

Tail Length: 47.5-60.5 mm

Hind Foot Length: 10-15 mm

Body: 60.5-73 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: all dark brown, gray/buff brown
light tan/white feet

Ears: small, hidden well in hair

Tail: no tuft, visible brown and white
bicoloration

Misc: pointed nose

Reserve(s): FERP

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa

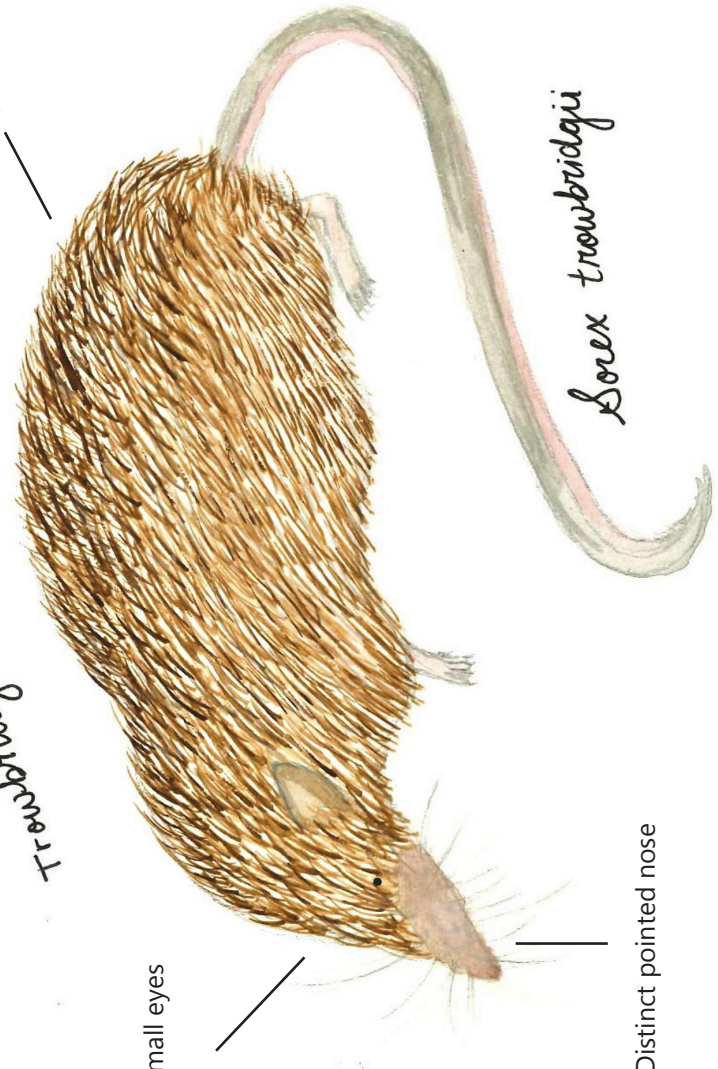
Trowbridge's Shrew

Little to no bicoloration

Very small eyes

Distinct pointed nose

Sox trowbridgei



Peromyscus maniculatus

Deer Mouse



Measurements

Ear Length: 12-20 mm

Tail Length: 54-124 mm

Hind Foot Length: ~22 mm

Body: 60-101 mm

Distinct Characteristics

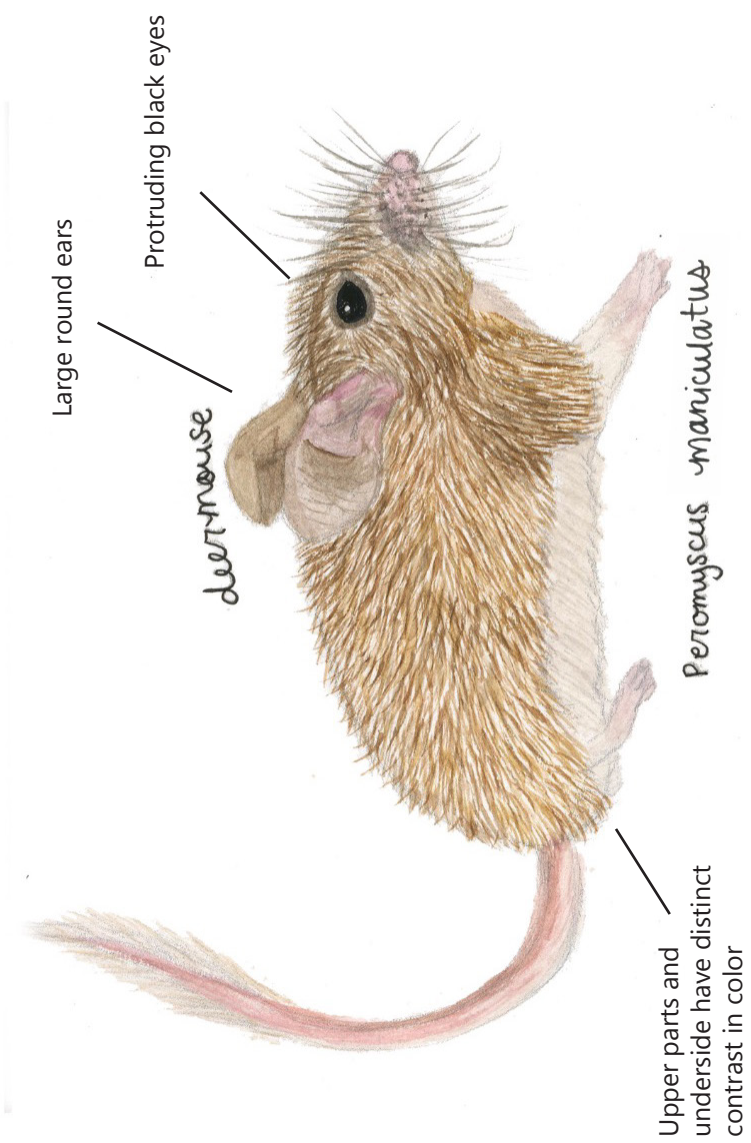
Pelage: golden, tawny, or dark brown
white belly
strong color distinction between
upper part and underside

Ears: large, round

Tail: tuft, strong brown and white
bicoloration, same length or longer
than body

Reserve(s): FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa



Large round ears

Protruding black eyes

deer mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus

Upper parts and underside have distinct contrast in color

Chaetodipus californicus

California Pocket Mouse



Karen J. Carter



Alison Sheehy

Measurements

Ear Length: 9-14 mm

Tail Length: 101-143 mm

Hind Foot Length: 24-29 mm

Body: 89-92 mm

Distinct Characteristics

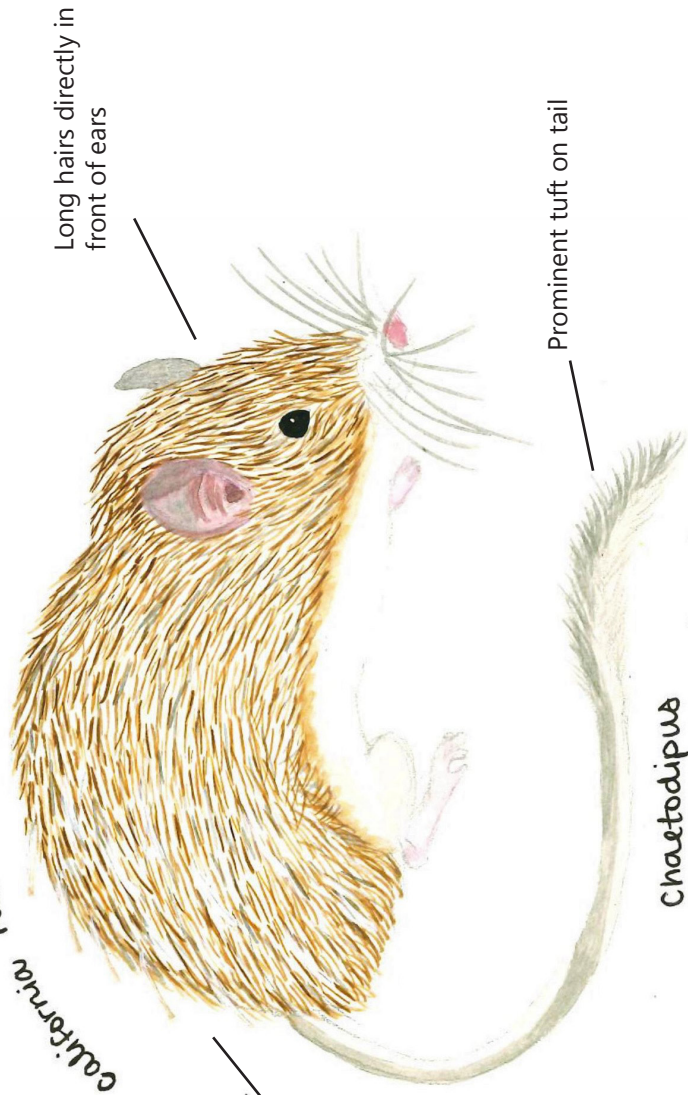
Pelage: dark brown/gray
spiky/bristly fur on back
gray/white belly

Ears: small, round

Tail: prominent tuft, visible brown and white bicolored

Reserve(s): FONR

californica
pocket mouse



Long hairs directly in front of ears

Prominent tuft on tail

Distinct white spine-like bristles on rump

Chaetodipus californicus

Peromyscus truei

Pinyon Mouse



Measurements

Ear Length: ~22.2 mm

Tail Length: 76-123 mm

Hind Foot Length: ~22 mm

Body: 95-108 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: brown, cinnamon, or tawny
distinctive golden stripe on sides
gray/white belly

Ears: large, pointed, longer than hind foot

Tail: tuft, visible brown and white
bicoloration

Misc: large eyes

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa

Ears pointed and larger than hind foot

Large eyes

Distinct pointed nose

pinyon mouse

Peromyscus truei



Peromyscus californicus

California Deer Mouse



Measurements

Ear Length: 20-27 mm

Tail Length: 117-156 mm

Hind Foot Length: 24-31 mm

Body: 101-127 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: gray/golden brown
golden stripe along sides
dark back
pale gray/white belly

Ears: medium, round

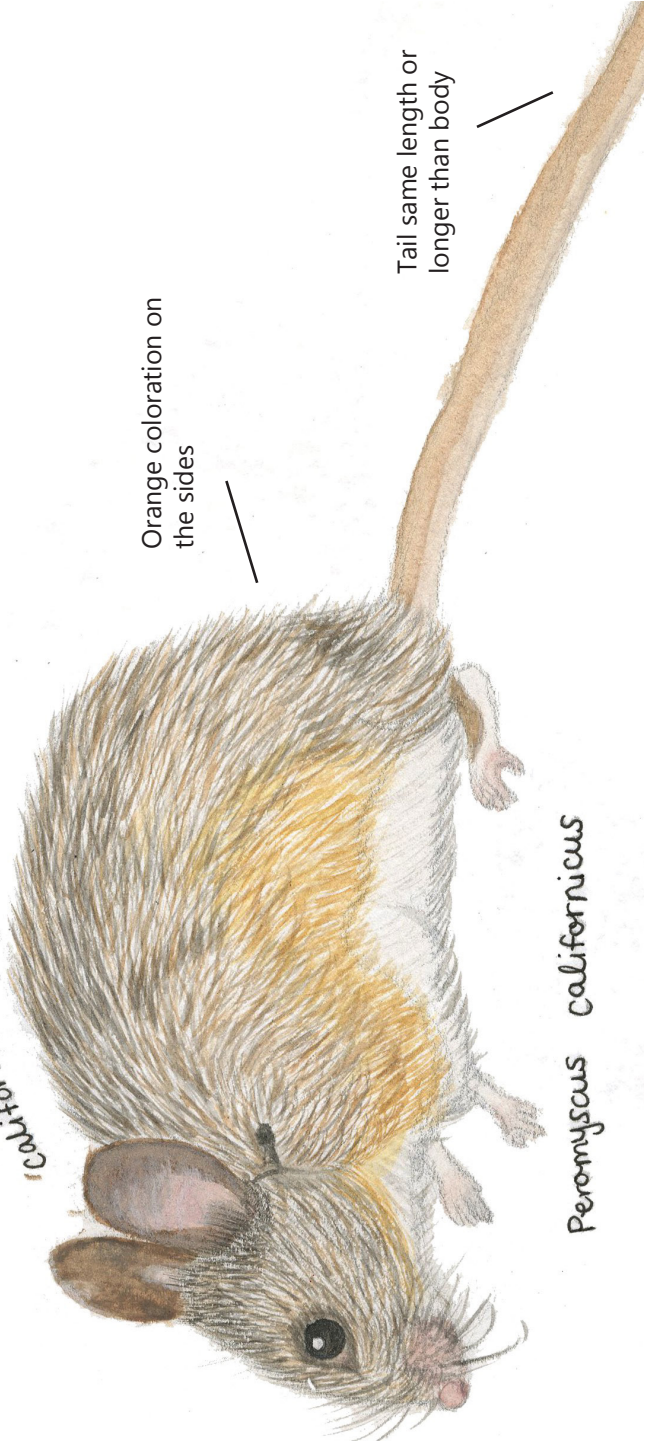
Tail: tuft, strong brown and white
bicoloration, same length or longer
than body

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa

Largest of
Peromyscus

californicus
deer mouse



Orange coloration on
the sides

Tail same length or
longer than body

Peromyscus californicus

Dipodomys heermanni

Heermann's Kangaroo Rat



Measurements

Ear Length: 10-17mm

Tail Length: 160-200 mm

Hind Foot Length: 38-46 mm

Body: 90-113 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: dark brown on back
brown/golden brown
white belly
white markings around eye

Ears: small, round, dark

Tail: tuft, strong brown and white
bicoloration

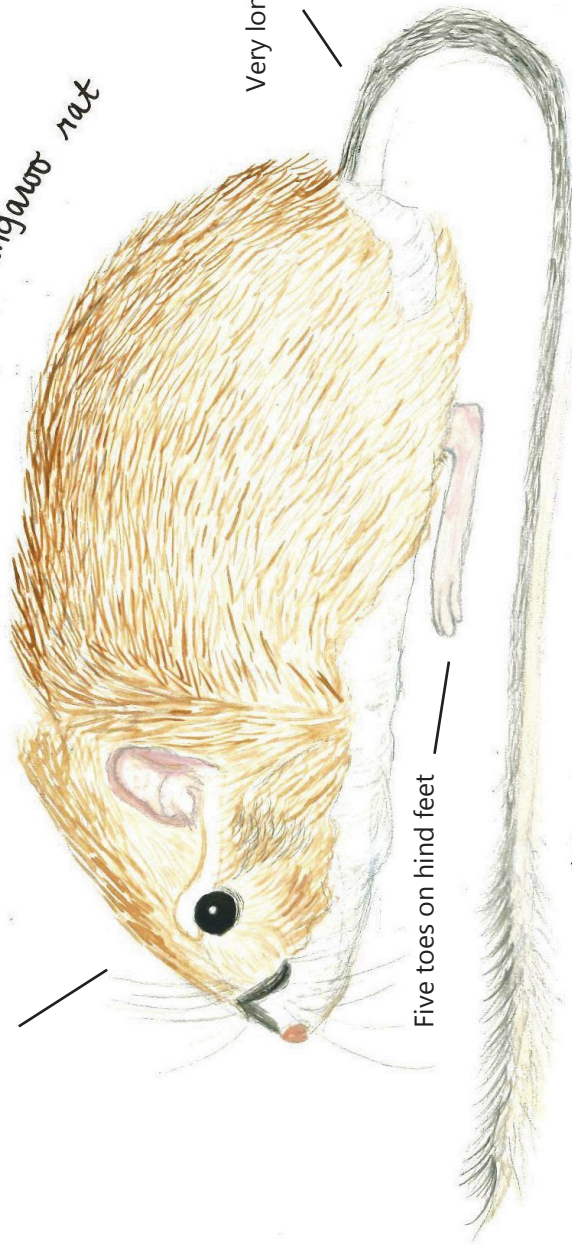
Misc: large eyes

Reserve(s): FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa

White markings
around eyes

Heermann's kangaroo rat



Very long tail

Five toes on hind feet

Dipodomys heermanni

Microtus californicus

California Vole



Jerry Kirkhart



Ron Wolf

Measurements

Ear Length: ~17 mm

Tail Length: 38-67 mm

Hind Foot Length: ~18 mm

Body: 120.5-146 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: grizzled brown on back
flecks of black and lighter gray

Ears: large, round, lighter than body

Tail: no tuft, visible brown and white
bicoloration

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Inconspicuous furred ears

California vole



Tail half of body length or shorter

Pelage is grizzled brown with black and gray flecks

Microtus californicus

Neotoma fuscipes

Dusky-footed Woodrat



Measurements

Ear Length: 31-34 mm

Tail Length: 260-439 mm

Hind Foot Length: 27-44 mm

Body: 158-257 mm

Distinct Characteristics

Pelage: gray/buff brown on back
pale gray/white belly
head usually grayer than body

Ears: large, round, lighter than body

Tail: no tuft, not bicolored, thick

Reserve(s): FERP, FONR

Photos By: Gabriella Reynosa

disk-footed woodrat
Neotoma fuscipes

Much larger and heavier than other species in this guide

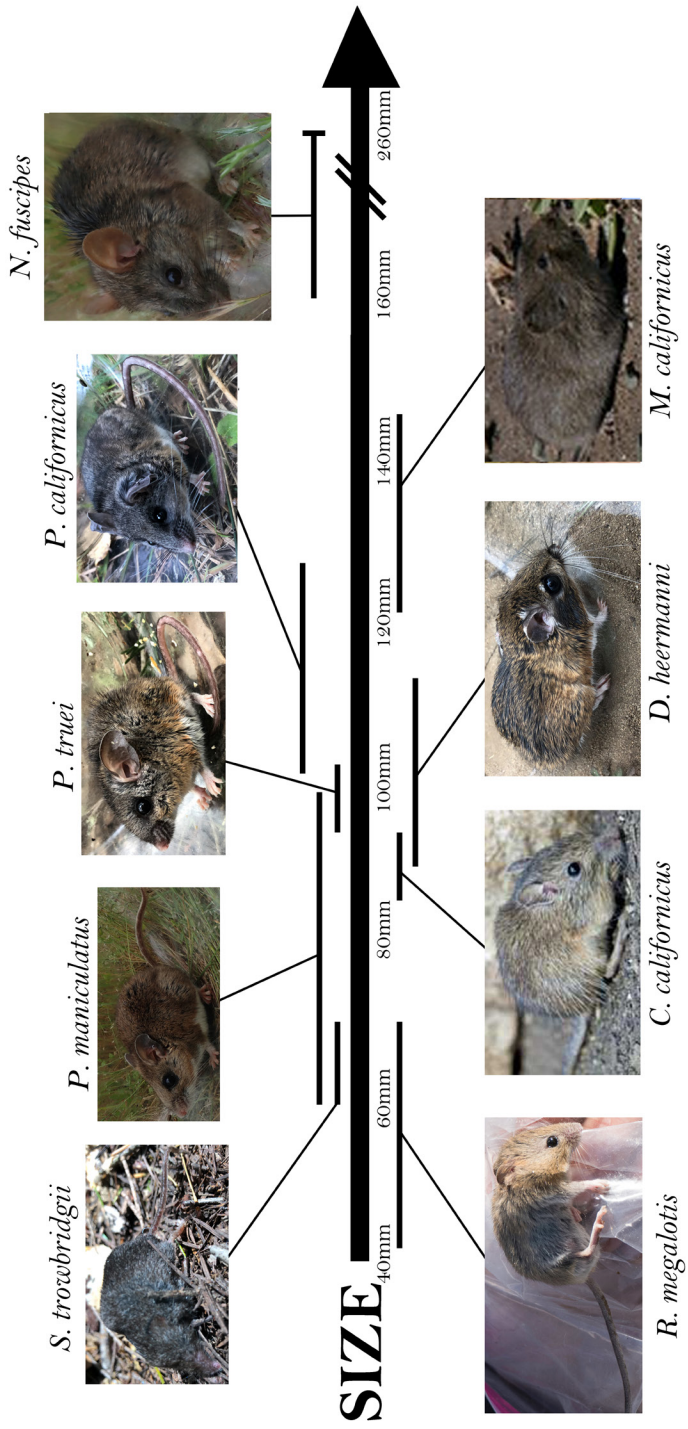
Sparsely furred tail, not bicolored

Neotoma fuscipes

Fur extends over ankles

Pale gray or white underside







Sources

EOL (<https://www.eol.org>)

IUCN Red List (<https://www.iucnredlist.org>)

National Wildlife Federation Guide (<https://www.nfw.org>)

Eder, Tamara. *Mammals of California*. Lone Pine Publishing, 2005.

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