

CONSERVATION STATUS: As it is endemic to the country and its distribution is restricted, *N. phenax* is considered as of Special Protection (SEMARNAT, 2010). It is important to establish its current status, as deforestation is probably threatening it (G. Ceballos, pers. comm.).

Neotoma picta Goldman, 1904

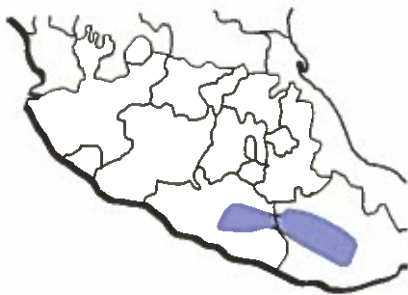
Painted woodrat

Cody W. Thompson and Robert D. Bradley

SUBSPECIES IN MEXICO

N. picta is a monotypic species.

Goldman originally described the species in 1904. Goldman (1910) later arranged the species as a subspecies of *N. ferruginea*. Hall (1955) subsequently moved *N. ferruginea* containing the subspecies *N. ferruginea picta* into *N. mexicana*. In 2002, Edwards and Bradley re-elevated *N. picta* to species status based on genetic data. A revision is needed to determine whether other species currently included in *N. mexicana* should be assigned to this taxon.



DISTRIBUTION: *N. picta* is endemic to Mexico. The species is known from the type locality in the mountains near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico (Goldman, 1904) to west-central Oaxaca (Goldman, 1910; Goodwin, 1969). It has been recorded in GR and OX.

DESCRIPTION: *Neotoma picta* is a medium-sized rat similar in color to *N. isthmica* with orange-rufous to ferruginous coloration along the cheeks, shoulders, and sides (Goldman, 1904). It is smaller than *N. isthmica* (Goldman, 1910). The face, top of the head, and back are darkened by black-tipped hairs. The ventral parts are nearly white to salmon with a plumbeous basal color. The tail is long and slender and covered with short hairs indistinctly bicolored (dusky above, paler below). The ears are relatively small with short, dusky hairs. The forefeet are yellowish-white, while the hind feet are dusky or pale fulvous. The toes are white (Goldman, 1904). The skull is less robust and less arched than that of *N. isthmica*. The zygomatic arch is less arched anteriorly (Goldman, 1910).

EXTERNAL MEASURES AND WEIGHT

TL = 338 to 355 mm; TV = 166 to 182 mm; HF = 33 to 35.5 mm; EAR = N/A.
Weight = N/A.

DENTAL FORMULA: I 1/1, C 0/0, PM 0/0, M 3/3 = 16.

NATURAL HISTORY AND ECOLOGY: In general, *N. picta* is a montane species associated with woodlands and shrub vegetation types (Cornely and Baker, 1986). Typically, it is found along rocky outcroppings in cloud forest habitats (R.D. Bradley, pers. comm.). Little else is known of the natural history and ecology of this species.

VEGETATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ELEVATION RANGE: Type locality is found in the mountains near Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico. Elevation was 3,048 m (Goldman, 1904). Vegetation in this area is typical of the transition and Canadian zones (Goldman, 1910).

CONSERVATION STATUS: There is no known conservation risk for this species.