

**NORTH AMERICAN
FAUNA NO. 34:
REVISION OF THE
SPINY POCKET MICE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649351664

North American fauna No. 34: revision of the spiny pocket mice by Edward A. Goldman

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EDWARD A. GOLDMAN

**NORTH AMERICAN
FAUNA NO. 34:
REVISION OF THE
SPINY POCKET MICE**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
HENRY W. HENSHAW, *Chief*

NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA

No. 34

[Actual date of publication, September 7, 1911]



REVISION OF THE SPINY POCKET MICE

(Genera *HETEROMYS* and *LIOMYS*)

BY

EDWARD A. GOLDMAN
FIELD NATURALIST, BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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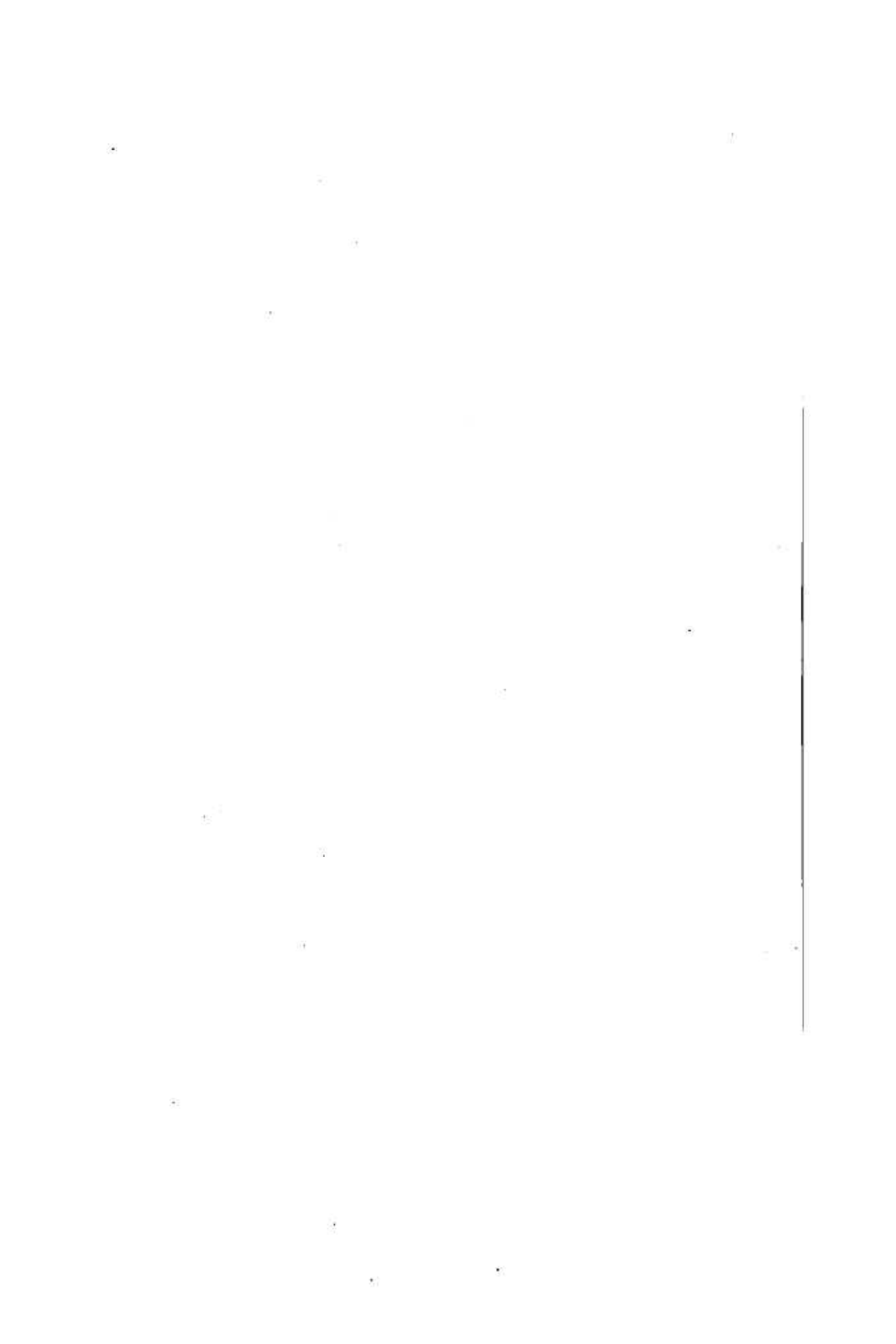
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
Washington, D. C., April 15, 1911.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for publication as North American Fauna No. 34, a Revision of the Spiny Pocket Mice (genera *Heteromys* and *Lionys*), by Edward A. Goldman, field naturalist, Biological Survey. The spiny pocket mice are widely distributed in the drier parts of North America, and, although of small size, are of considerable economic importance, owing to the fact that they feed chiefly on seeds, including weed seeds, corn, wheat, and beans. Comparatively little has been known of the relationships and distribution of these animals. Hence the need of the present revision, which brings the subject up to date and will materially lessen the labors of those who have occasion to study and identify the animals.

Respectfully,

HENRY W. HENSHAW,
Chief, Biological Survey.

HON. JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.



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REVISION OF THE SPINY POCKET MICE.

(Genera *HETEROMYS* and *LIOMYS*.)

By EDWARD A. GOLDMAN.

INTRODUCTION.

The spiny pocket mice of the genera *Heteromys* and *Liomys* belong to the family Heteromyidæ, a group of mammals widely distributed, especially in the drier parts of North America. The other members of the family are the pocket mice of the genus *Perognathus* and the kangaroo rats of the genera *Dipodomys*, *Perodipus*, and *Microdipodops*. Although of small size, these rodents are of considerable economic importance in many regions, owing to their excessive numbers and their habit of feeding on grain and other seed, which they carry off in their cheek pouches.

In *Heteromys* and *Liomys* the pelage is composed mainly of flattened and grooved bristles or spines, which readily distinguish these genera from all the others. The genus *Liomys*, with numerous forms, overlaps the other Heteromyidæ in geographic range, but gradually replaces them from southern Texas southward through Mexico. The genus *Heteromys* includes an austral group of species, some of which range in northern South America.

HISTORY AND MATERIAL.

A species of *Heteromys* was first described and figured under the name *Mus anomalus*, from the island of Trinidad, by John Vaughn Thompson.¹ In a paper read March 3, 1812, before the Linnæan Society of London he gave an excellent description, which was published in the Transactions of the Society three years later. Thompson was well aware of the peculiar characters of the animal, and regarded

¹ Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., XI, pp. 161-163, pl. 10, 1815.