Canyon mouse (Peromyscus crinitus)





References: Johnson & Armstrong 1987.

### **Taxonomy:**

Family Cricetidae. Eight subspecies are recognized, including the regional subspecies *Peromyscus crinitus doutti*.

## **Description:**

Yellowish-brown above and whitish-gray below. Sides are brighter than the back. Tail is longer than the head and body, bi-colored, and with a tufted tip. Ears are about as long as the hind foot.

Total length: 161-192 mm; Tail: 82-118 mm; Hind foot: 18-25 mm; Ear: 17-23 mm; Weight: 13-23 g.

## **Distribution:**

Western US from Oregon, Idaho, and Wyoming south to northwestern Sonora and Baja, Mexico. There are a few records of this species from midelevations in the canyons along the Wasatch Front.

## **Ecology and diet:**

Canyon mice are generally restricted to areas such as rock outcrops, boulder fields, and cliff faces. They are nocturnal and omnivorous, consuming seeds, insects, and green vegetation in amounts dependent upon seasonal availability.

# Life History:

Reproduction occurs between April and October. Females average 2 litters of 1-4 offspring per year. Gestation length is about 24-30 days. Young are sexually mature within 4-6 months.