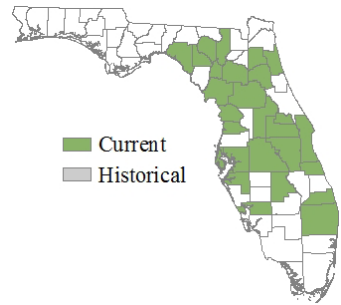


FLORIDA MOUSE

Peromyscus floridanus

Order: Rodentia
Family: Cricetidae
FNAI Ranks: G3/S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A large mouse (7.3 - 8 in. = 179 - 203 mm), brownish to tawny above and whitish below. Flanks are often chestnut or orangish. Hind feet are large (0.86 - 1.1 in. = 23 - 28 mm), generally with five pads (plantar tubercles). Tail (3.12 - 3.8 in. = 80 - 95 mm) is indistinctly bicolored: gray-brown above, whitish below. Often has a faint skunk-like odor.

Similar Species: Distinguished from all other mice within its range by the presence of five plantar tubercles on the hind feet versus six or seven in *Peromyscus* spp. Oldfield mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus*) is generally smaller (4.7 - 6.0 in. = 122 - 153 mm) with a proportionally shorter tail (1.6 - 2.4 in. = 40 - 60 mm) that is sharply bicolored. Cotton mouse (*Peromyscus gossypinus*) is slightly smaller, but overlaps in body measurements to the degree that the number of plantar tubercles is the best distinguishing characteristic.

Habitat: Xeric upland communities with sandy soils, including scrub, sandhill, and ruderal sites where they inhabit burrows of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*; see species account). In the absence of gopher tortoises, Florida mice will dig their own burrows or use those of oldfield mice.

Seasonal Occurrence: Active year-round except on especially cold nights.

Florida Distribution: Occurs from north-central Florida south to Highlands and Sarasota counties and along the Atlantic coast from St. Johns County south to Miami-Dade County.

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

Conservation Status: Protected on several conservation lands throughout central Florida. Largest populations may occur within Ocala National Forest and the scrubs along Lake Wales Ridge.

Protection and Management: Use prescribed fire to maintain openings in scrub and encourage the growth of grasses and forbs important for food and cover.

Florida Mouse

Podomys floridanus

References: Brown 1997, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Layne 1990, Lazell 1989, Whitaker 1996.



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Podomys sp. foot © Dan Hipes



Peromyscus gossypinus foot © Dan Hipes