

## FLORIDA SALT MARSH VOLE

*Microtus dukecampbelli*

**Order:** Rodentia  
**Family:** Cricetidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1  
**U.S. Status:** Endangered  
**FL Status:** Endangered



**Description:** A medium-sized rodent (total length: 7.3 in. = 185 mm) with a short tail (approximately 2 in. = 50 mm) and a short, broad snout. Hair is dark brown above and silvery gray below. Ears are small and may be obscured by hair.

**Similar Species:** Distinguished from other subspecies by its larger size, but this is not an issue because the closest population occurs in coastal South Carolina. Cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) has a long tail (3 - 6 in. = 75 -166 mm) and grizzled appearance. Rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris*) also has a long tail (about as long as the body). Woodland vole (*Microtus pinetorum*) is much smaller, generally not exceeding 5.7 in. (145 mm).

**Habitat:** Poorly known, but apparently uses saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) meadows adjacent to black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*) and may avoid areas with smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Year-round resident.

**Florida Distribution:** This species is known from only one locality in Levy County in the vicinity of Cedar Key.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as Florida distribution. Other subspecies occur from coastal South Carolina through the mid-Atlantic states north throughout Canada and into Alaska.

**Conservation Status:** Only known occurrence is on private land; efforts to find in adjacent areas have been unsuccessful. Population may be susceptible to storm surge.

**Protection and Management:** Management needs are unknown; however, saltgrass seems to be an important habitat character.

**References:** Brown 1997, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Woods et al. 1982.



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