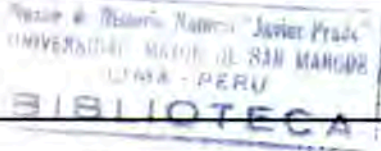


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**A NEW SPECIES OF *Scolomys* (MURIDAE: SIGMODONTINAE)  
FROM PERU**

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**ABSTRACT**

A new species of *Scolomys* from the lowland amazonian forest of Loreto, Perú is described.

**RESUMEN**

Se describe una nueva especie del género *Scolomys* proveniente de la selva amazónica de Loreto, Perú.

***Scolomys ucaylensis*, new species**

**HOLOTYPE.**- MUSM 5474, e! adult; Departamento de Mastozoología, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. The holotype is a skin partially ant-eaten on the right side of the body and a skull in good condition, collected by Víctor Pacheco, field number 830, on May 2, 1990.

**OTHER SPECIMENS.**- One paratype from the same locality, MUSM 5460, c-j; apparently sub-adult, skull and skin, damaged by ants.

**TYPE LOCALITY.**- Centro de Investigaciones "Jenaro Herrera", 2.8 km E of Jenaro Herrera, department of Loreto; right bank of the Ucayali river; at 135 m elev.; 73°39'W, 04°52'S.

**DISTRIBUTION.**- Known only from the type locality.

**DIAGNOSIS.**- A small spiny mouse characterized by dark color above and paler below. Cranial morphology similar to *Scolomys melanops* Anthony, 1924, but differing in the orthodont upper incisors, broader interorbital region and the narrower rostrum and zygomatic arch (Fig. 1).

**DESCRIPTION.**- Small spiny mouse. Entire pelage composed of flattened spines. Above, pelage coloration is composed of black flattened spines interspersed with grayish brown, appearing darker than *S. melanops*; below it is clear gray contrasting with the dark pelage above. Ears small, covered by pelage at base, terminal half dark, sparsely haired, hands and feet whitish, noticeably paler than in *S. melanops*, digits whitish, thumb with flat nail. Tail short, sparsely haired and annulated, dark above and lighter below, but not sharply bicolored; terminal tuft absent.

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Skull quite similar to *S. melanops* especially in size, but zygomata is narrow and not roundly expanded: interorbital region broader, with borders nearly rounded; braincase more rounded than in *S. melanops*; parietal smaller but larger interparietal; incisive foramina forming a subchordate pattern as in *S. melanops*; posterolateral palatal pit of medium size; upper incisors slender, yellow and orthodont; molars small and resembling *S. melanops* in pattern.

MEASUREMENTS.- Taken in the flesh: total length, 144; tail length, 60; hind foot, 18; ear length, 13; weight, 20 g. A comparison of cranial measurements of *S. melanops* and *ucayalensis* with the same variables used by Anthony (1924) is presented in Table 1.

ECOLOGY.- The holotype was collected at the edge of a trail covered with dense undergrowth near a stream. The paratype was found at the edge of a plot of primary forest, artificially cut for regeneration studies. *Scolomys melanops* has been found also in a disturbed patch of forest, with dense undergrowth, in lowland rainforest (Emmons & Peer, 1990). These records might indicate that species of the genus *Scolomys* occur naturally in disturbed or secondary forest. Other species collected in the same locality are: *Metachirus nudicaudatus*, *Philander opossum*, *Proechimys brevicauda*, *P. steerei*, *Oecomys bicolor*, *Neacomys spinosus*, *Oryzomys capito*.

The stomachs of *S. ucayalensis* had seeds (Solanaceae) and ascomycetes, and remains of spiders and insects. No ectoparasites were found, but nematodes (Trichostrongylidae) were collected from the intestines.

ETYMOLOGY.- The specific name refers to the type locality, placed on the Ucayali river.

REMARKS.- Species of the genus *Scolomys* are apparently rare. *S. melanops* is known only from Eastern Ecuador based on nine individuals taken in two series 50 years apart (Emmons & Peer, 1990), six of which were collected by Anthony in 1924.

**TABLE 1.- Comparative measurements of *Scolomys ucayalensis* with the congeneric *S. melanops*. \*measurements taken from Anthony (1924)**

MEASUREMENTS	Scolomysmelanops			Scolomysucayalensis	
	AMNH 67524*	USNM513581	USNM'H3582	MUSM 5474	MUSM 5460
greatest length of skull	219	2236	2208	2256	2116
condylo-incisive length	200	2077	2035	1989	1894
length of nasals	76	800	781	796	742
zygomatic breadth	128	1296	1290	1177	1127
interorbital breadth	48	486	480	568	549
breadth of brain-case	109	1116	1143	1154	1129
length of palate	90	94	94	87	86
incisive foramina	3.7x2.0	3.6x2.03	3.8x2.06	3.7x2.18	3.76x2.01
length of diastema	55	576	568	58	538
breadth of palate (M1-M1)	46	449	473	447	448
upper molar tooth-row	26	288	285	269	294
mandibular tooth-row	28	29	289	290	305

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Fig. 1.- Dorsal, ventral and lateral views of *S. ucayalensis* (MUSM 5474, right) compared with *S. melanops* (USNM 513581, left).