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Mammalogy Class 2013 Field Notes

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Ladder Ranch Specimen Collection Trip 9/6/13-9/8/13

Road Log - To reach Ladder Ranch from Albuquerque, Take I-25 south for 77 miles (1hr 15min) to Socorro. Continue South on I-25 for another 80 mi and take exit 63/NM-152 toward Hillsboro. Take the 2nd left onto NM-187N Follow the dirt road for a few miles (10-15min) until you arrive at Ladder Ranch headquarters, you must pass through gated entrance prior to this. Proceed several miles more down the road, crossing Animas creek at one point about 15 minutes later you will arrive at the stone house, our collecting locality.

Participant List - Mitchell Lowery, Lori Dibble April, Briana, Cait, Catalina, Courtney, Fernando, Julie, Robert, Tara, Ursula Bryan, Amanda, Skylar, Ernie, Marie Dr. David Schmidly, Elizabeth, Marjorie Kayra, Jocie,

General Site Description - USA, NM Sierra Co., Ladder Ranch 7.5 mi N. Animas Peak
33.03479N, 107.51086W Elevation 1500m

This particular site varied from Riparian to rocky mesa hills and mostly transitional zones between those two areas. This is considered Chihuahuan desert scrublands and the dominant flora include creosote bush, mesquite, yucca, salt brush, black and blue grama grasses, sycamore and cottonwood trees as well as juniper & piñon.

Participant List / Signatures

Tara Templeman

Tara Templeman

April M. Chavez

April M. Chavez

Courtney L. Monbya

Courtney L. Monbya

Brianna Upton

Brianna Upton

Catalina Tome

Catalina Tome

Lori Dibble

Lori Dibble

Robert Scott

Robert Scott

Ursula Osterrocks

Ursula Osterrocks

Elizabeth Dickerson

Elizabeth Dickerson

Carlin Starele

Carlin Starele

Bryan McLean

Bryan McLean

Julie Rannan

Julie Rannan

FERNANDO SALAZAR

FERNANDO SALAZAR

Weather - Upon arrival 9/6/13 the weather was warm, sunny and dry with a very light winds. During the day the temperature averaged 21 - 28°C. On the night of September 7th there was a patchy rain / thunderstorm which lasted about 45 min around 7PM and started up again in the middle of the night for several hours more.

Trapline Info - MLL 1 w/ Courtney was set on a rocky mesa hill about 1 mile away from camp. The lines were set on September 6th at about 4:45PM and September 7th @ 2PM They were re-baited. The traps used on the line were 33 sherman traps baited w/ chicken scratch + rolled oats, 23 musculus sp. snap traps and 10 rat sp. snap traps baited with a rolled oats / peanut butter mixture. The traps were randomly set in areas we felt would be inhabited by small mammals and were marked by tying small flags to nearby vegetation.

Captures - On Sept. 7th we checked our trapline at 8AM finding 1 musculus sp. snap trap triggered by a Neotoma albigula assigned NK 216759

On Sept. 8th we checked our trapline again at 8AM finding 1 musculus sp. snap trap triggered again by a Neotoma albigula assigned NK 216784 (N:330.00146 W:107°29.378, E:4982) Success = 1.5%

Group Captures (Species List)

18 Heteromyidae (5 species)
 22 Cricetidae (4 species)
 1 Leporidae 4 Geomyidae
 1 Sciuridae 1 Mephitidae
 5 molossidae 3 Vespertilionidae (2 species)

Ancillary Information

This was my first official overnight mammal trapping expedition and I was able to enjoy many one-of-a-kind experiences. On the first morning I woke up and went for a short walk and came within 10 feet of a hognose skunk (Conepatus mesoleucus)

Thankfully we were equally scared of each other and it ran in the opposite direction instead of scenting me. Later that day I was able to photograph much of the landscape, birds and insects and had the priveledge of observing a rock squirrel (Otospermophilus variegatus) going about it's daily business for about 15 min. In all it was a successful trip and a pleasure to take.