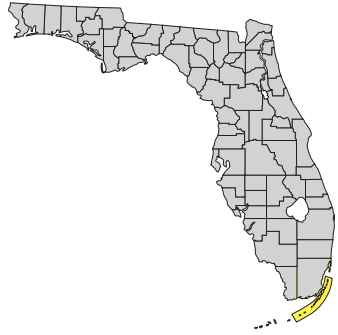


KEY LARGO WOODRAT

Neotoma floridana smalli

Order:	Rodentia
Family:	Cricetidae
FNAI Ranks:	G5T1/S1
U.S. Status:	Endangered
FL Status:	Endangered



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Description: A medium-sized rodent (total adult length is 12 - 16 in. = 320 - 420 mm). Ears are large and ovoid. Fur on back is brown mixed with black, with some chestnut color on the sides. Furred tail is distinctly bicolored, brown above and white below, and less than half the length of the body. Feet are white.

Similar Species: Black rat (*Rattus rattus*) and Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) have hairless ears and tails. Cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) has a grizzled appearance with long, lightly furred tail about equal to the body length; ears are small and round.

Habitat: Mature rockland hammock (tropical hammock) on Key Largo.

Seasonal Occurrence: Active year-round.

Florida Distribution: Found only on Key Largo; experimental population on Lignum Vitae Key may have been lost to unknown causes.

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Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution. Other subspecies occur from south-central Florida throughout much of the eastern and south-central U.S.

Conservation Status: Protected on Key Largo Hammock State Botanical Site; areas protected on Key Largo and adjacent islands (as of 2001) may not be sufficient for the long-term survival of this subspecies.

Protection and Management: Prevent cutting of tropical hammock. Preserve additional habitat. Improve suboptimal habitats by depositing limerock piles. Reclaim abandoned lots.

Selected References: Brown 1997, Hersh 1981, Humphrey 1988, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Lazell 1989.



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