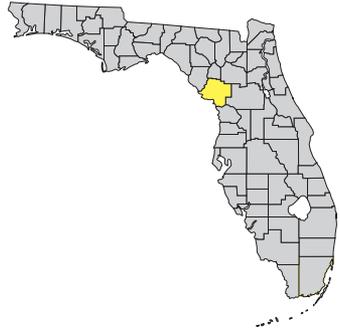


SALT MARSH VOLE
Microtus pennsylvanicus
dukecampbelli



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



Microtus pennsylvanicus © Larry Master

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

SALT MARSH VOLE

*Microtus pennsylvanicus
dukecampbelli*

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: Known from only one locality in Levy County in the vicinity of Cedar Key. Attempts to locate the salt marsh vole in similar habitat at other nearby locations have been unsuccessful.

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: Protect coastal marshes and adjacent uplands as refuges from high water. Management needs are unknown; however, saltgrass seems to be an important habitat character.

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