Euneomys chinchilloides (Waterhouse, 1839) is a large (mean weight of adults specimens = 85 g), short-tailed, cursorial sigmodontine rodent that lives in bare, windswept, rocky scree habitat along the southern Andes and the Patagonian steppes from about 35° S in Argentina and 33° S in Chile south to the Cabo de Hornos (Pearson 1995). In Argentina, its northernmost locality record corresponds to Laguna de la Niña Encantada (ca. 35°10' S, Mendoza Province; Massoia et al. 1994; Pardiñas et al. 2008; Figure 1), while in Chile, to the locality of Farallones (ca. 33°17' S, Región Metropolitana de Santiago, Chile; Yáñez et al. 1987). In this note, we present a new recording locality for this species in province of Mendoza that enlarges its current distribution in Argentina ca. 250 km to the north.

We studied two fresh specimens found dead in the Seccional Horcones of Parque Provincial Aconcagua, Mendoza (32°48’55.92” S, 69°56’28.60” W, 2922 m; Figure 1) and also several cranial remains found in two owl pellet samples collected in this same protected area (32°49’28.4’’ S, 69°56’31.4’’ W, 2850 m; 32°49’26.0’’ S, 69°55’18.1’’ W, 2771 m; Figure 1). The studied specimens are housed in the mammal collection of the Fundación de Historia Natural “Félix de Azara” (Buenos Aires, Argentina), with the accession numbers CFA 345 and CFA 346 (fresh specimens conserved in fluid with removed and cleaned skulls) and in the Colección de Material de Egagróplas y Afines “Elio Massoia” of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (Chubut, Argentina), under the numbers CNP-E 390 and CNP-E 391 (owl pellet samples). The study area is included within the Southern Andean Steppe eco-region (sensu Olsen et al. 1999).

Cranial and dental remains of *E. chinchilloides* (Figure 2) are recognizable by the following combination of characters: anterior expansion of the nasals slightly noticeable; posterolateral palatine foramina with sub-elliptic contour; presence of a median process in the palatine; and upper incisors with a medium-lateral groove.

In addition, fresh specimens have a conspicuous white spot above the rhinarium (cf. Pine et al. 1979).

Some external measurements of the fresh specimens (in mm) are as follow (CFA 345, adult male - CFA 346,
subadult female): tail length = 65-67; hindfoot length (with claw) = 27-26; ear length = 20-20. Skull measurements for these same individuals are (skulls are mostly damaged): palatal length = 14.84-14.04; upper diastema length = 8.43-7.95; interorbital width = 3.72-4.08; length of nasals = ?.13.52; maximum width of the nasals = ?-4.37; upper toothrow length = 5.84-5.90; width of the incisors = 2.91-2.47.

From a taxonomical point of view, we provisionally follow the opinion of Reise and Gallardo (1990) and Pearson and Christie (1991), the most recent reviewers of this genus, which refers the smaller forms of *Euneomys* to *E. chinchilloides*. Contrary to this view, Musser and Carleton (2005) restricted the name *chinchilloides* for populations from Tierra del Fuego and referred mainland samples to *E. petersoni* J. A. Allen, 1903, a taxonomic hypothesis that must be further tested. Specimens from Valle Hermoso, southern Mendoza, morphologically identified as *E. chinchilloides*, have a different diploid complement (see Ojeda et al. 2005) from specimens of southern populations assigned to this species (Reise and Gallardo 1990). Pearson and Christie (1991) treated *E. noei* Mann, 1944 as conspecific with *E. mordax* Thomas, 1912, but Reise and Gallardo (1990) considered it a subjective synonym of *E. chinchilloides*, an opinion not supported by the morphological characteristics of the holotype (see Musser and Carleton 2005). It is clear that the genus needs a taxonomic revision and probably some binomial usage can be change in a near future. However, the specimens from Aconcagua reported here morphologically belong to the *chinchilloides* group and clearly depart from the *mordax* group.

**Figure 2.** Some features of the cranial morphology of *Euneomys chinchilloides* (Seccional Horcones, Parque Provincial Aconcagua, Mendoza, Argentina): a. Anterior part of the nostrum in dorsal view (the arrows indicate the section of maximum width of nasals; CFA 346); b. Palate (CFA 345); c. Upper incisors in frontal view (the arrow shows the lateral placement of the incisor groove; CFA 345). Abbreviations: in = incisive, na = nasal, pm = medial process of the palatine, ppp = postero-lateral palatine pit. Upper toothrow of the specimen CFA 345 = 5.8 mm.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Park rangers Ulises Lanzelli and Ramón Oliver collected the studied owl pellet samples; economic support was provided by the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET-PIP 6179). Guillermo D’Elía and Marcelo Weksler made helpful comments on an early version of this manuscript.

**LITERATURE CITED**


Received: September 2009
Reviewed: September 2009
Accepted: March 2010
Published online: March 2010
Editorial responsibility: Marcelo Passamani