

the interior of Nayarit and Sinaloa and contact other species of *Peromyscus* where river valleys provide access. But, again its distribution seems primarily to be confined to the riverine flood plains, and it is absent from the drier hillsides.

We are concerned that populations of *P. simulus* may be declining or the species could be subject to drastic population fluctuations in parts of its range. The largest sample of the species collected at one time was reported by Carleton et al. (1982) from a coastal palm grove and a mangrove swamp near Cuautla, Nayarit. These authors reported 72% trap success in one night of collecting in this region, and they took a total of 127 specimens of this species in a few nights of collecting. We accompanied a collecting party of trained mammalogists to this exact same site in the summer of 1983 and did not obtain a single specimen of *P. simulus* in over 3,000 trap-nights of collecting. Similarly, in that same summer we visited many of the other localities where *P. simulus* had been reported and had great difficulty in obtaining specimens. Other species of rodents were collected in normal to abundant numbers.

Its preference for coastal wetland and inland riparian habitats, coupled with the small geographic range of the species and the possible indication of a population decline in some regions, is cause for concern about the status of *P. simulus*. In our opinion, this species should be carefully monitored in future years. Wetland and riparian habitats are rapidly disappearing throughout North America, and the coastal lowlands of western Mexico are becoming subjected to substantial development. As its habitat disappears or is altered, populations of the Sinaloan mouse could become fragmented and gradually decline.

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