

Microtus ochrogaster nos 5-7-28-48; 6-7-28-48; 7-7-28-48:

Returned to base camp and after breakfast journeyed up Big Thomas Canyon where 4 stations were selected to represent a traverse from the geographical range of *Microtus ochrogaster* of the great plains up to contact with *Microtus montanus* in the bottom of canyons from the Rocky Mountains. Big Thompson Canyon particularly in lower limits, the highway preoccupies practically the entire valley bottom except the creek. Beyond the lower limits, summer home take up most of the canyon floor. The four research areas were placed according to a distant factor plus altitudinal factor and are as follows:

Research area A-7-28-48 at Cedar Grove, 5600 ft., Larimer Co., Colorado or 9 1/4 mi. W and 1/2 mi. N Loveland, Colorado. This area is in bottom of canyon with canyon slopes on either side. The hillslopes are covered with Ponderosa pine and in the openings a mountain mahogany (buckbrush) completely covering surface of sidehill like a carpet. Large cottonwoods and other riparian deciduous trees in canyon bottom. Grasses are represented and suggest relict populations. In fact, it may be that the only true great plains grasses will be found in these protected spots in the canyon. The trapping area is on benchland above river valley between the base of hill and occasional valley of the river. Photo 8-7-28-48 taken at Cedar Cove shows the trapping area in the immediate foreground. Vegetation at this point is *Chrysothamnus*, the dominant shrub; dry matted grasses, vines, mullein, chokeberry and other shrubs. Runways confined to matted vegetation associated with and between the groups of shrubs. The runways were ^{also} on steeper slopes of the highway grade. Considerable trash (organic) covered the ground such as



dried limbs, stems etc; which were of normal accumulation from the native vegetation. In some of the dense accumulations of debris the runways were damp but otherwise were dry and dusty. The grasses at Cedar Cove are protected from grazing, otherwise they would be not offer overhead protection. The residents claim that skunks are common here in Cedar Cove. 30 traps were set here. A *Passerina amoena* and *Turanga ludoviciana* were in the area.

Research area B-7-28-48 at Riverside, 6020 ft., or 12 mi. W and 1 1/2 mi. N Loveland, Larimer Co., Colorado. This