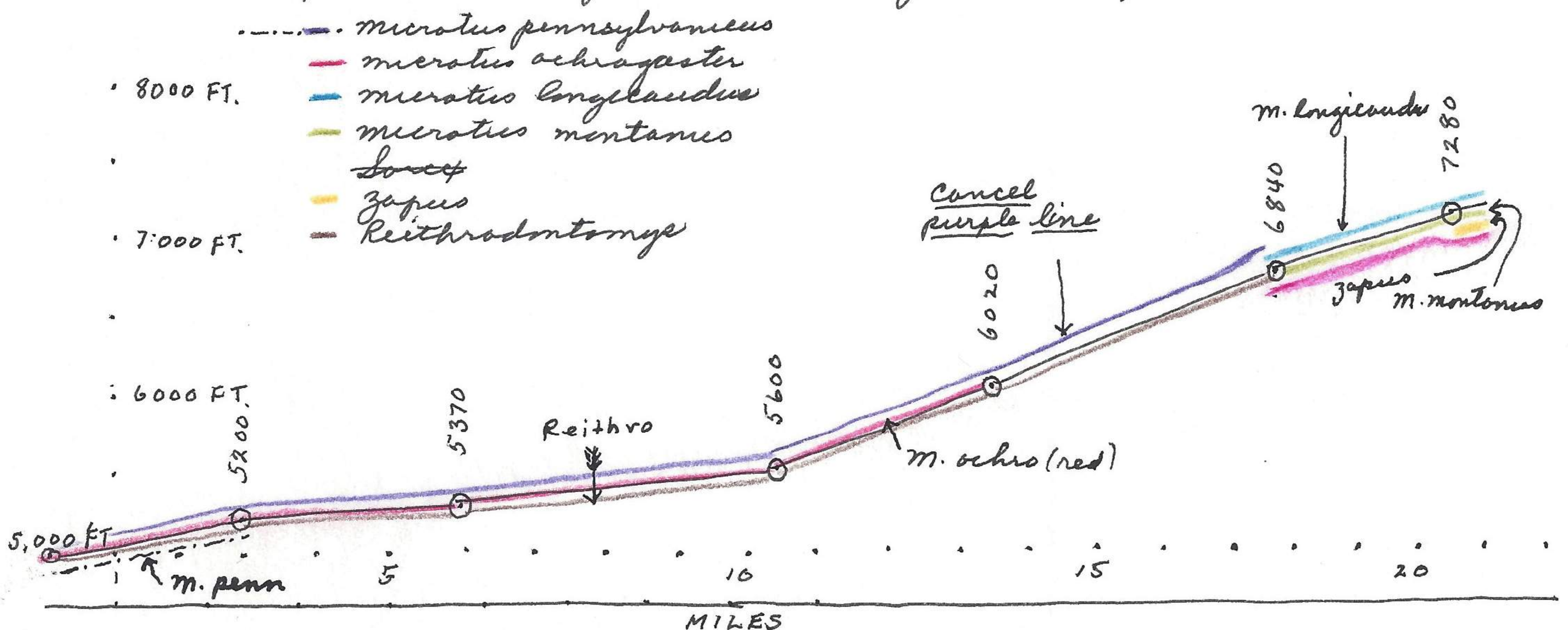


must be of the same general montane character, but, low growing meadow grasses, sedges and plants. *Microtus ochrogaster* will inhabit such montane plant communities but is generally in areas where the montane meadows are not present. *Microtus ochrogaster* is associated with successional stages and in areas where conditions are more severe than one would generally realize. The fact that *ochrogaster* is found so far into the Transition Life Zone is because of the presence of successional stages in the canyon floors where these stages are better able to develop because of the changing nature of the canyon valley floor. The successional stages where *Microtus ochrogaster* is found are created by man made interferences such as abandoned cultivated fields, sloping shoulders of road grades etc. Just from general observations it seems to be a form that is invading a new territory. One important factor is temperature and elevation which are important in differentiating the transition from the lower montane life zones. At the point where *M. ochrogaster* and *M. montanus* are expected to meet or converge, one has the definite reaction of changing from the warmer transition zone to the cooler montane. There is also a difference in plant complex at about the point of convergence of the two microtine forms. If montane communities extend down the canyon, *M. montanus* is surely to follow them. The meeting point of *M. ochro* and *M. montanus* will probably be the division line between Transition and Montane life zones. The distribution of the several species in Big Thompson Canyon are as follows:



with additional trapping the ranges would no doubt be modified especially in the area between altitude 6,020' and 6,840'