500727-13 microtus ochrogaster 134-36-20-12-26 gms
500727-14 " " 142-36-21-12-37 gms ♂ Testes 10 mm.

Returned to camp 11 of Fort Pierre and organized to leave for Lawrence, Kansas.

Fort Pierre, Stanley Co., S Dakota
July 28, 1950

Departed early today and drove directly to Lawrence in Kansas. There are a few generalities that can be stated about the trip and its objectives. It was notice that, although Iowa and S part of Minn are not two much diff-erent than Kansas, the number of Insectivora is immeasurably greater in numbers of individuals per, than in Kansas. It is true, there is more surface water and is more permanent.

The Canadian influence plant community reaches down into the plains for a considerable distance especially in the Minnesota region and that as one passes w into the Dakotas, except the extreme north part of N. Dakota, the plant community changes from good Canadian type meadow to sparse vegetation in a rather dry enviroment.

It is not understood why there is an apparent lack of microtus ochrogaster between the Missouri River and middle Minnesota. Old records show this form in the area but they seemed to have disappeared or made themselves extremly rarely and inconspicuous at Battineau, the type locality of microtus ochrogaster minor, the animal does not seem, at present, to be in the area. With microtus.ochrogaster haydeni apparently confined to the west side of the missouri, at least in N+S Dakota or the northern part of S. Dakota, it is very unlikely that this form of haydeni and minor do not come in contact at any point unless at the extreme S E limits of M. o. minor farther east. The difference between the community of microtus ochrogaster and M. o. minor is one of sparse vegetation & dry-ness for haydeni and Canadian type grass & shrub meadows for minor. It would almost seem like M. o. haydeni developed in dry areas below the Pleistocene glaciers while M. o. minor developed in the glacial refugia of Canadian communities of the Pleistocene. It would be advisable, first, to subject M. o. minor serological tests, comparing this species with M. o. haydeni and then by checking chromosomes of hybrid offspring between the two species or (sub-species). This could be followed by regular systematic studies.