California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

AGILE KANGAROO RAT *Dipodomys agilis*
Family: HETEROMYIDAE Order: RODENTIA Class: MAMMALIA
M103

Written by: G. Ahlborn
Reviewed by: M. White
Edited by: M. White

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

Common, yearlong resident of southern California. Inhabits South Coast region, generally west of the Mojave and Colorado deserts, from the Mexican border north to the Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo Co. Iine. Also occurs in Tehachapi and Piute Mts. inland to South Fork of Kern River in southeastern Tulare Co. Found in coastal scrub, open stages of chaparral, and desert scrub habitats, and in some conifer woodlands. It occurs in habitats below 2250 m (7400 ft).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Primary foods include seeds of grasses, forbs, and shrubs (Meserve 1976a). Forages on open ground adjacent to shrubs, searching for, and gathering, food. Large amounts of food can be held in cheek pouches, some of which later is stored in underground caches.

Cover: Burrows are excavated in friable soils. Shrubs and herbage provide cover during above-ground activities.

Reproduction: Nests in burrows excavated in friable soils.

Water: Probably needs drinking water (MacMillen 1964).

Pattern: Open areas with scattered vegetation and friable soils provide suitable habitat for D. agilis.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong nocturnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Non-migratory.

Home Range: Home ranges varied from 0.1 to 0.6 ha (0.4 to 1.5 ac), with a mean of 0.3 ha (0.8 ac) (MacMillen 1964).

Territory: Females may be territorial during breeding season. Territory and home range probably are the same size.

Reproduction: Reproduction occurs from January into July. Litter size ranges from 2-4; average = 2.6.

Niche: D. agilis is closely related to D. heermanni and D. venustus. Unlike most other Dipodomys, D. agilis is not well adapted to extreme xeric conditions. Rattlesnakes, owls,

badgers, foxes, skunks, weasels, and coyotes are likely predators. Other seed-eating species may compete when food is scarce.

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