

SONORAN DESERT

GREAT BASIN DESERT

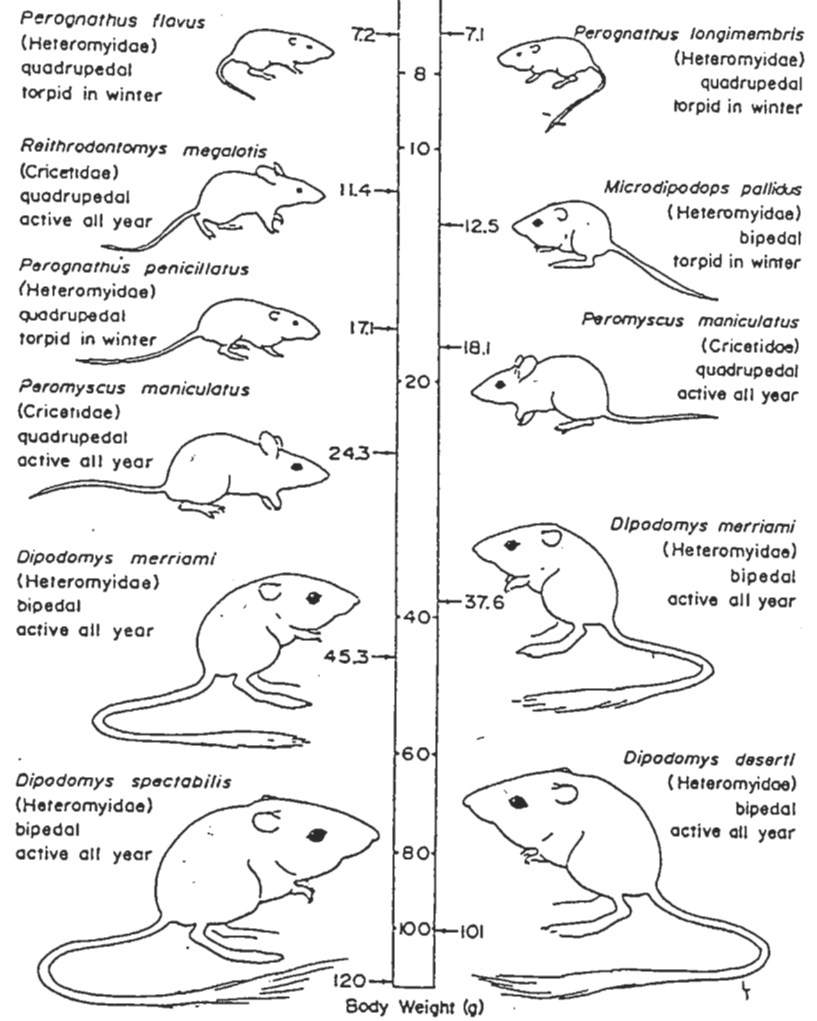


Figure 5 Schematic representation of convergence in structure between a six-species community from the Sonoran Desert (Rodeo B, left) and a five-species community from the Great Basin Desert (Dunes 3 and 7, right). Numbers are average weights (grams). Note the similarities in body size, form, taxonomic

affinity, and other characteristics between species occupying similar positions in each community. Also notice the displacement in body size in *Peromyscus maniculatus* and *D. merriami* (both are larger in the Sonoran Desert) to compensate for the different numbers and sizes of coexisting species.

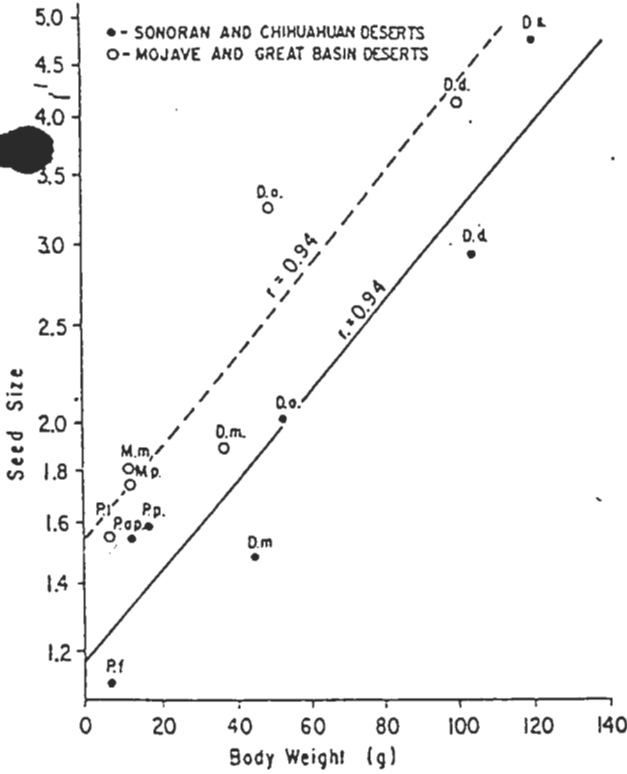


Figure 6 The relation between the size (length) of natural seeds in the cheek pouches and body size for heteromyid rodents from sandy soil habitats. Note that within both deserts the average size of seeds increases with body size, but that the rodents collect smaller seeds in the Sonoran than in the Mojave and Great Basin deserts. Species abbreviations follow Figure 4 except for *Perognathus apache* (*P.ap.*).

Fig. 1. Sizes of native seeds harvested by coexisting ants and rodents near Portal, Arizona. A total of 11,518 seeds were collected from the cheek pouches of 134 rodents representing five species, and 1052 seeds were collected singly from ants representing seven species. These were sized by passing them through a graded series of sieves (Tyler). Although ants take some seeds smaller than those utilized by rodents, there is extensive overlap (5).

