

## Pleistocene Lagomorpha and Rodentia From the San Josecito Cave, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

GEORGE E. JAKWAY<sup>1</sup>

University of Kansas, Lawrence

### Abstract

The Pleistocene lagomorphs and rodents of the San Josecito Cave, Nuevo Leon, Mexico are described. One species of lagomorph is extinct, *Sylvilagus leonensis*. All of the rodents, except *Heterogeomys* n. sp., are referred to existing species. The geographic ranges of *Synaptomys cooperi* and *Marmota* extended farther south in the late Pleistocene. On the basis of species present in the fauna, late Pleistocene age is suggested for the fauna of San Josecito Cave; the age is approximately the same as that of Papago Spring, Arizona, but older than Rancho La Brea, California. Seemingly no major changes of climate or topography have occurred in the region of the San Josecito Cave since the Pleistocene.

### Introduction

Between 1935 and 1942 field parties from the California Institute of Technology under the direction of Dr. Chester Stock collected vertebrate fossils of Pleistocene age from the San Josecito Cave. Stock (1942 and 1950) identified the carnivores from the assemblage. Miller (1943) reported the avian remains, and Furlong (1943) described the antelope, *Stockoceros conklingi* Stock, from the fauna. Cushing (1945) published generic identifications of the rodents and described a new species of lagomorph, *Sylvilagus leonensis*.

Before Dr. Stock's death in 1950, he sent for study to Drs. E. Raymond Hall and R. W. Wilson of the University of Kansas, the insectivore, chiropteran, rodent, lagomorph, and mustelid remains from the San Josecito Cave. The Soricidae were studied by Findley (1953), and Russell (ms.) has studied the Geomyidae. A bat, *Corynorhinus tetralophodon*, was described by Handley (1955).

The herpetofauna has been reported by Brattstrom (1955).

In 1957 the paleontological collection of the California Institute of Technology was purchased by the Los Angeles County Museum.

### Locality

San Josecito Cave (California Institute of Technology Vertebrate Paleontology locality 192) is near the town of Aramberri, southern Nuevo

---

Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Vol. 61, No. 3, 1958.

<sup>1</sup> Present address University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska.