= 58 ? 62 and the similar Hylaeamys perenensis has 2n =
52 , FN = 62 ; these karyotypes resemble that of southern Ecuadorean T. talamancae .

= = Distribution and habitat = =

The distribution of Transandinomys talamancae extends from northwestern Costa Rica south and east to northern Venezuela and southwestern Ecuador , up to 1 @,@ 525 m (5 @,@ 003 ft) above sea level . It is a forest species and occurs in both evergreen and deciduous forest . Although its distribution broadly overlaps that of T. bolivaris , it is more widely distributed in South America because of its greater tolerance of dry forest habitats .

Transandinomys talamancae reaches the northern limit of its range in Costa Rica , but except for one record from the far northwest (in Guanacaste Province near the southern margin of Lake Nicaragua) , it is known only from the southeastern third of the country . In contrast , T. bolivaris and H. alfaroi occur further north , into Honduras and Mexico respectively . It occurs throughout Panama at low elevations . Along the Pacific coast in Colombia and Ecuador , it is found on the coastal plain and the adjacent foothills of the Andes . The southernmost known record is in far southwestern Ecuador , but the species may well range into nearby Peru .

It also occurs throughout northern Colombia at low elevations and into western Venezuela west of Lake Maracaibo and at the foot of the western part of the Venezuelan Coastal Range east to Guatopo National Park . Hylaeamys megacephalus occurs further to the east in the eastern portion of the coastal range , separated by the coastal Eastern Caribbean Dry Zone . There is a record from the Orinoco Delta of northeastern Venezuela , well within the range of Hylaeamys megacephalus , but Musser and colleagues suggest that this is based on mislabeled specimens . The species has also been found on the narrow strip between the Llanos and the Andes (Cordillera Oriental and Cordillera de Mérida) in eastern Colombia and northwestern Venezuela . The unforested Llanos separate these areas from Hylaeamys populations . Hylaeamys perenensis does , however , occur further south along the eastern foothills of the Cordillera Oriental in Colombia and it is possible that the two overlap in this area .

= = Ecology and behavior = =

Transandinomys talamancae is a common , even abundant species . Its ecology was studied by Theodore Fleming in the Panama Canal Zone . It lives on the ground and is active during the night . The animal uses nests that are located above the ground and occasionally enters burrows also used by the pocket mouse Liomys adspersus . Its diet is omnivorous , including both plant material such as seeds and fruits and adult and larval insects .

Males tend to move over longer distances than females . The average home range size in Fleming 's study was 1 @.@ 33 hectares (3 @.@ 3 acres) ; males had larger home ranges on average . Specimens that were once captured tended to be captured more frequently than those that had never been captured . Fleming estimated that population densities reached peaks of up to 4 @.@ 3 per ha (1 @.@ 7 per acre) late in the rainy season (October ? November) , but dropped to near zero around June ; however , these figures may well be underestimates . In central Venezuela , population densities vary from 5 @.@ 5 to 9 @.@ 6 per ha (2 @.@ 2 to 3 @.@ 8 per acre) .

In Panama , it breeds year @-@ round without apparent seasonal variability . According to Omar Linares 's Mamíferos de Venezuela (Mammals of Venezuela) , reproductive activity is highest in June ? July and December . In the laboratory , the gestation period is 28 days ; Linares reports that it is 20 to 30 days in the wild . Females produce an average of six litters per year and there are two to five (average 3 @.@ 92) young per litter , so that a single female may produce about 24 young per year ; this is likely an overestimate because most females would not live for a full year . Larger females may have larger litters . Animals become sexually mature when less than two months old ; in Fleming 's study , some females in juvenile fur , probably less than 50 days old , were already pregnant . The oldest specimen Fleming observed was nine months old ; he estimated that animals were unlikely to live for more than a year in the wild and that the mean age at death was 2 @.@ 9

months .

Ten species of mites (Gigantolaelaps aitkeni , Gigantolaelaps gilmorei , Gigantolaelaps oudemansi , Gigantolaelaps wolffsohni , Haemolaelaps glasgowi , Laelaps dearmasi , Laelaps pilifer , Laelaps thori , Mysolaelaps parvispinosus , and Paraspeleognathopsis cricetidarum) , thirteen chiggers (Aitkenius cunctatus , Ascoschoengastia dyscrita , Eutrombicula alfreddugesi , Eutrombicula goeldii , Intercutestrix tryssa , Leptotrombidium panamensis , Myxacarus oscillatus , Pseudoschoengastia abditiva , Pseudoschoengastia bulbifera , Trombicula dunni , and Trombicula keenani) , and four fleas (Jellisonia sp . , Polygenis roberti , Polygenis klagesi , and Polygenis dunni) have been found on T. talamancae in Panama . G. aitkeni has also been found on this species in Colombia . In addition , the sucking lice Hoplopleura nesoryzomydis and Hoplopleura oryzomydis occur on T. talamancae .

= = Conservation status = =

A widespread and common species , Transandinomys talamancae is listed as " Least Concern " by the IUCN Red List . It occurs in numerous protected areas and tolerates disturbed habitats well , and no important threats are known .