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A NEW SPECIES OF *BENSONOMYS* (RODENTIA, CRICETIDAE) FROM THE LATE EARLY HEMPHILLIAN (LATE MIOCENE), COAL VALLEY FORMATION, SMITH VALLEY, NEVADA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of sigmodontine rodent, *Bensonomys lindsayi*, is described from the late Miocene (late early Hemphillian North American Land Mammal age, Hh2) Coal Valley Formation of Smith Valley, Nevada. The sample of *B. lindsayi* is one of the best known for the genus, including the most complete cranial material definitely associated with a lower dentition. *Bensonomys* possesses a myomorphous zygomassteric cranial structure, similar to that of other sigmodontine rodents (e.g., *Calomys*). This is the first record of *Bensonomys* from west central Nevada and extends the paleogeographic range of the genus.