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Please note: These instructions have changed from those provided for the VPC Proceedings in past years. Please read and follow these revised instructions in preparing your manuscript.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS 28th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

February 26 – March 1, 2018 Rohnert Park, California USA

Purpose

The objective of the Vertebrate Pest Conference and the resulting *Proceedings* is to help disseminate factual and ecologically sound information concerning human-wildlife conflicts and vertebrate pest damage and its control. The Conference continues to make significant contributions toward effectively understanding and resolving undesirable human-wildlife interactions and animal damage problems, promoting better management and control methodology, and minimizing adverse ecological effects. Vertebrate pest control uses applied ecology, with the goals of improving public health and conserving resources. The Conference is a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences among researchers, administrators, and practitioners in vertebrate pest control and wildlife damage management. It is organized by the California Vertebrate Pest Council, which also publishes the Conference *Proceedings*.

Manuscript Preparation

A manuscript for publication in the *Proceedings* is expected from every speaker and encouraged from every poster presenter. Where a paper represents the work of more than one individual or where protocol demands, papers may be jointly authored.

In the event that your presentation at the Conference covers a topic for which you have submitted (or intend to submit) a manuscript to a journal or a different conference's proceedings, it is the author's responsibility to provide us with a manuscript that is sufficiently unique that the similar publication will not prohibit your paper from being included here. Some journals allow publication of your paper if the proceedings has a print run of <500 copies, which will be the case for the 28th VPC *Proceedings*. An alternative, in the event your paper has already been published elsewhere, is for the author to secure written permission for the VPC to reprint your paper in our *Proceedings*. Please discuss such situations with the VPC *Proceedings* Coordinator in advance of the Conference.

The Conference *Proceedings* are widely used for information and reference in the United States and in many parts of the world. Therefore, we request that you carefully follow these guidelines in the preparation of your manuscript.

Due Date

Your manuscript in final form must be uploaded as instructed below no later than **March 20, 2018**. For the 28th Conference, we're adopting a different strategy for publishing the *Proceedings*, and it is our intent to make all papers available open-access on the University of California eScholarship site within 12 months following the Conference. Papers submitted after the due date may not be included in the 28th *Proceedings*.

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Name all files with the first (“senior”) author’s last name. The manuscript itself, which includes the Literature Cited and List of Captions for Figures and/or Tables, should simply be the first author’s last name (e.g., Thompson.docx). Name the files containing individual figures or tables as follows, also using the first author’s last name (e.g., Thompson Figure 1.xlsx; Thompson Figure 2.jpg; Thompson Table 1.docx).

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Appropriate key words must be included with each manuscript. Key words should be selected that will allow for the general content of the paper to be identified, including Latin names as well as common names of species that are the main topic of the paper. Place the list of key words in alphabetical order, typically not to exceed 10 words, after the abstract and before the body of the paper. For suggested key words, see the publication “Key Word Standardization in Vertebrate Pest Control” (R. M. Timm, T. P. Salmon, and R. H. Schmidt. 1988. *In: Vertebrate Pest Control and Management Materials*, ASTM STP 974, pp. 3-11), which can be viewed or printed from the Conference’s web site <http://www.vpconference.org>.

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The average manuscript has been about 12 double-spaced pages long (3,500 words). We strive to limit the length of each manuscript to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages, including tables and figures, abstract, and references (maximum: 5,500 words, or approximately 275 words per page). Manuscripts longer than this limit may be returned to authors for condensing, unless prior approval has been obtained. (When tables or figures are included, the 5,500-word limit must be reduced commensurately.)

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- For consistency, use “pers. commun.” for personal communication

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Beginning with the 28th *Proceedings*, we are adopting the citation style used by the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Examples of the most common types of literature citations are as follows:

Journal article

Note: Issue numbers are included only if the pages of each issue are numbered separately.

Bélisle, M., and A. Desrochers. 2002. Gap-crossing decisions by forest birds: an empirical basis for parameterizing spatially-explicit, individual-based models. *Landscape Ecology* 17:219–231.

Cox, W. A., F. R. Thompson III, B. Root, and J. Faaborg. 2012. Declining brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) populations are associated with landscape-specific reductions in brood parasitism and increases in songbird productivity. *PLoS ONE* 7(10):e47591.

Book

Note: If the state appears in the publisher or agency name, do not repeat it after the city.

Kleinbaum, D. G., L. L. Kupper, A. Nizam, and K. E. Muller. 2008. *Applied regression analysis and other multivariable methods*. Fourth edition. Duxbury, Belmont, California, USA.

Miller, K. V., and L. Marchinton. 1995. *Quality whitetails: the why and how of quality deer management*. Stackpole, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

Edited Book

Temple, S. A., editor. 1978. *Endangered birds: management techniques for preserving threatened species*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, USA.

Chapter in Edited Book

Zeleny, L. 1978. Nesting box programs for bluebirds and other passerines. Pages 55–60 in S. A. Temple, editor. *Endangered birds: management techniques for preserving threatened species*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, USA.

Newspaper, newsletter, and magazine articles

Associated Press. 1997. Feathers could fly over dove hunting. *Columbus Dispatch*. 28 December 1997; section E:15.

Eisler, P. 1996. Voters to get a shot at hunting laws. *USA Today*. 25 April 1996; section A:4.

Hogan, M. 1997. Political season as important as hunting season. *Safari Times* 9(8):18.

Jones-Jolma, D. 1993. The fight to reform trapping in Arizona. *Animals' Agenda*. March–April:20–24.

Paper in a numbered Proceedings volume

Palmer, T. K. 1976. Pest bird control in cattle feedlots: the integrated system approach. *Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference* 7:17–21.

Agency or Government Publication

Anderson, D. R. 1975. Population ecology of the mallard: V. Temporal and geographic estimates of survival, recovery, and harvest rates. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Publication 125, Washington, D.C., USA.

Thesis or Dissertation

Breitwisch, R. J. 1977. The ecology and behavior of the red-bellied woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus* (Linnaeus; Aves: Picidae), in south Florida. Thesis, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA.

Tacha, T. C. 1981. Behavior and taxonomy of sandhill cranes from mid-continental North America. Dissertation, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA.

Web page

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. 2005. National Weather Service internet services team. Monthly precipitation for Reno, Nevada.
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/hydrology/monthly_precip.php>. Accessed 23 Aug 2005.

For more detailed guidelines on style of other types of references, see:

Journal of Wildlife Management and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* - Author Guidelines February 2016, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291937-2817/homepage/ForAuthors.html>

Peer Editing

All papers contained within the *Proceedings* of the 28th Vertebrate Pest Conference will be peer edited. Papers will be evaluated by the *Proceedings* Editors and by selected other academicians and resource professionals from within the Vertebrate Pest Council. This process of peer editing, while not as rigorous as peer review typically practiced by scientific journals, permits review of manuscript content and expedites timely publication of the information presented at the Conference. Editorial liberties will be taken in instances where improved clarity is needed or where style is incorrect. In the case of most manuscripts, the authors will not be

contacted during the peer editing process. Unfortunately, time does not permit circulation of galley proofs for authors' review. Manuscripts improperly prepared or formatted, or which need significant improvement to meet the *Proceedings'* standards for scientific merit and clarity of expression, will be returned to the authors.

Publication

The 28th *Proceedings* will be available open access as individual papers in PDF format on the University of California's eScholarship portal, once publication is completed. A printed version of the 28th *Proceedings* will also be available for purchase via print-on-demand, with details to be announced in the Conference Final Program.

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The Vertebrate Pest Council appreciates your contribution to this upcoming Conference, and we look forward to your participation.

28th Vertebrate Pest Conference

February 26 - March 1, 2018
Rohnert Park, California, USA

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Manuscript Sample

An example of the style to follow in preparing your manuscript for the 28th Vertebrate Pest Conference Proceedings.

***** ***** *****

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1 **An Evaluation of Potential Repellents for Botta's Pocket Gophers**

2
3 **Gary W. Witmer and Rachael S. Moulton**

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5 **Roger A. Baldwin**

6 Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis, California

7
8 **Abstract:** Pocket gophers are fossorial rodents that cause substantial damage to crops,
9 reforestation, and property. We tested potential repellents to identify candidates to reduce
10 irrigation tubing damage. We dipped carrot chunks in the test materials, using mineral oil as the
11 solvent. Gophers prefer tuberous roots and, when kept in captivity, are often fed carrots as part of
12 their maintenance diet. None of the materials tested proved effective as repellents, even at
13 concentrations as high as 20% active ingredient or in combinations. Wood blocks soaked in a
14 few of the repellents received nearly significantly less damage than the control blocks and could
15 be looked at further as repellents. However, it appears that the quest for an effective gopher
16 repellent will continue to elude researchers.

17
18 **Key Words:** Botta's pocket gopher, drip irrigation, repellent, *Thomomys bottae*, wildlife damage

19 20 **INTRODUCTION**

21 There are numerous species of pocket gophers in North America with most species belonging
22 to the genera *Geomys* and *Thomomys* (Nowak 1991). Pocket gophers cause various types of
23 damage to agricultural and rangeland resources and to reforestation (Witmer and Engeman

24 2007). Pocket gophers (*Thomomys* spp.) are generally considered one of the most damaging
25 wildlife pests in California (Marsh 1992, Clark 1994). A recent study estimated average losses
26 ranging from 5.3-8.8% across a variety of crops in CA (Baldwin et al. 2014), with one study
27 showing a loss of 36.5% of annual production in alfalfa in fields with high density gopher
28 populations (Smallwood and Geng 1997). The most widespread pocket gopher in California is
29 the Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) (Case and Jasch 1994).

30 Primary control options for pocket gophers include trapping, burrow fumigation with
31 aluminum phosphide, and baiting with rodenticides (Barnes et al. 1982, Baroch and Poché 1985,
32 Evans et al. 1990, Case and Jasch 1994, Witmer and Engeman 2007, Baldwin 2012, 2014). Both
33 trapping and burrow fumigation can be highly effective at controlling pocket gophers (Lewis and
34 O'Brien 1990, Proulx 1997, Baker 2004), but are typically more time consuming and costly than
35 baiting (Marsh 1992, Engeman and Witmer 2000). ...

36

37 **METHODS**

38 Pocket gophers (henceforth, gophers) used in this study were Botta's pocket gophers live-
39 trapped in California and transported to NWRC, Fort Collins, CO. Gophers were kept in
40 individual numbered shoebox cages in a climate-controlled animal room. ...

41

42 **RESULTS**

43 A sizable number of potential repellents were tested in our study. Some of these are already
44 known to have some repellency with certain vertebrate or invertebrate species. Additionally,
45 some have been identified in research studies as having repellency to some rodent species (e.g.,
46 Fischer et al. 2013, Cowan et al. 2014). Unfortunately, we did not find any of the tested materials
47 to show significant repellency during our trials with Botta's pocket gopher. This was true even
48 when the concentration was increased and when we combined two or three of the active

49 ingredients (see Tables 1 and 2). ...

50

51 **DISCUSSION**

52 Other researchers have noted that potential repellents that work for some rodent species may
53 not work for other rodent species and that ones that work for one gender may not be very
54 effective for the other gender (Hansen et al. 2015, 2016). In our previous trials to identify
55 effective gopher repellents, it was only predator odors that showed the most potential promise as
56 repellents (Witmer et al. 1997). In their review, Lindgen and others (1997) also noted the
57 potential for predator odors as repellent for various rodent species. ...

58

59 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

60 This study was conducted under the NWRC IACUC approved study protocol QA-2285. The
61 study was funded by Netafim Irrigation, Inc., Fresno, CA. We thank the landowners that allowed
62 us to live trap pocket gophers on their properties in California.

63

64 **LITERATURE CITED**

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66 controlling valley pocket gopher. *Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference* 21:253–257.
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72 M.Timm, and G. E. Larson, editors. *Prevention and control of wildlife damage*. University
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77 Journal of Mammalogy 85: in press. doi:10.1644/BJK-125.

78 ...

79

80 Captions for Tables and Figures

81

82

83 Table 1. Carrot consumption after 1 day and 2 days by treatment groups and control groups of
84 pocket gophers.

85

86 Table 2. Amount of wood block removed by gopher chewing after 3 days by treatment groups
87 and control group.

88

89

90 Figure 1. A single Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) housed within a shoebox cage
91 containing a repellent-treated wood block.

92

93

94

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