

Volcano rabbit

Geographic Range

The volcano rabbit is found near the Popocatepetl and Izztachihuatl volcanoes at the south Valley of Mexico.

Habitat

Volcano rabbits are found between 2800-4500 elevation in a special habitat called "zacaton". They live in open pines forest of dense bunch grass.

Physical Description

The pelage is short and dense with very short ears and a vestigial tail. Total length is 275-357 mm.

Reproduction

Gestations lasts 38-40 days; young are born completely furred but with closed eyes. They remain in the nest for 14 days and begin to eat solid food and move after three weeks.

Behavior

Volcano rabbit live in groups of 2 or 5. They are active during the evening and the early morning. Nests are constructed on April through September. Nest are hidden under the grass and plants.

Food Habits

The rabbits eat the tender green leaves of grasses and young leaves of spiny herbs.

Extra Data

The volcano rabbit also known as the Mexican pygmy rabbit is classified as endangered species due largely to habit loss and over hunting.

It has been reported that the rabbit may be genetically resistant to Viral Hemorrhagic Disease.