

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AN UNRECOGNIZED SHREW FROM WARREN ISLAND,
ALASKA.

BY HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON.

A careful study of Alaskan shrews of the *obscurus* group in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, in connection with specimens of this group in the collection of the U. S. Biological Survey, shows that it is necessary to recognize by name those which inhabit Warren Island. I am indebted to Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, for the privilege of describing this shrew from the collection under his administration. It may be known by the following diagnosis:

Sorex obscurus malitiosus,¹ subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult ♀, skin and skull, No. 8401, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California; from east side of Warren Island, Alaska; collected May 21, 1909, by H. S. Swarth. Original number 7532.

General characters.—Similar in size and superficial appearance to *Sorex obscurus longicauda*. Skull slightly more flattened than that of *longicauda* of corresponding age, the lachrymal foramen smaller and superior portion of rostrum broader. Larger than *Sorex obscurus elassodon* with relatively larger feet; skull broader than that of *elassodon* with longer rostrum. Larger than *Sorex obscurus alascensis* with longer tail; skull larger than that of *alascensis*, more flattened and averaging broader interorbitally.

Color.—Type in fresh summer pelage: Essentially like specimens of *S. o. longicauda* in similar pelage. Upperparts about mummy brown² becoming a very trifle darker on the posterior parts, and paling gradually into a drabbish on the flanks; underparts smoke gray heavily washed and mixed with between drab and wood brown; tail bicolor, between olive-brown and sepia above, between buffy brown and tawny-olive below nearly

¹Latin, full of wickedness, knavish.

²Ridgway, R., Color standards and color nomenclature, 1912.

to tip. *Winter pelage*: Darker and more grayish than summer pelage. Tending to be more brownish than corresponding pelage of *S. o. longicauda*. Upperparts most nearly between chaetura drab and fuscous black; underparts and tail essentially as in summer.

Skull.—Broad, flat and rather massive for the species *obscurus*. Slightly more flattened than that of *S. o. longicauda*, less depressed interorbitally, the braincase flatter and arising somewhat less abruptly in the frontal region, superior portion of rostrum broader and more flattened, lachrymal foramen smaller, unicuspidate teeth narrower, dental pigmentation less extensive. Larger, broader interorbitally, with broader, longer rostrum, and more deeply pigmented and heavier dentition than in *S. o. elassodon*. Larger than that of *S. o. alascensis*, more flattened, averaging broader interorbitally, with relatively longer palate and heavier dentition.

Measurements.—Type (adult female): Total length, 120; tail vertebrae 56; hind foot, 15. *Skull*: Type (adult female; teeth slightly worn): Condylbasal length, 18.4; palatal length, 7.3; breadth of cranium, 8.8; interorbital breadth, 3.8; maxillary breadth, 5.3; maxillary tooth row (anterior edge of second upper incisor to posterior edge of last upper molar measured at alveolar border), 6.6.

Remarks.—Nine specimens of *Sorex obscurus malitiosus* are in the series from the type locality. These are fairly constant in their characteristics and represent an island form which is probably confined to Warren Island. In the flatness of its skull *malitiosus* shows its nearest tendency toward *S. o. elassodon*, but on the whole the form is more like *S. o. longicauda* than any other subspecies. Its geographic range, however, is separated from that of *longicauda* by the range of *S. o. elassodon* which seems to occur on most of the islands between Admiralty Island, Alaska, and Moresby Island, British Columbia.



Jackson, Hartley H. T. 1919. "An unrecognized shrew from Warren Island, Alaska." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 32, 23–24.

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