

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 109

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

March 10, 1924

59.9,33S(71.4)

A NEW SPECIES OF SHREW FROM THE GASPÉ PENINSULA

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In a collection of small mammals made by the junior author in the Gaspé Peninsula during August and September of 1923, there are series of several species of shrews. *Sorex personatus personatus* was taken in greatest abundance but no less than nine *Microsorex* were taken as well. A small series of three specimens of dark slate-colored *Sorex* represents a species hitherto undescribed.

Sorex gaspensis, new species

TYPE.—No. 64190, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Mt. Albert, Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, 2000 feet elevation; September 5, 1923; collector, G. G. Goodwin. The type is a skin with skull, the skin in good condition, the skull showing slight crushing of the left pterygoid region.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—About the size and external proportions of *personatus* but much darker in color and with skull characters most like those of *dispar*.

DESCRIPTION.—Color above dark mouse-gray (Ridgway), faintly ticked with whitish; below light mouse-gray; hair everywhere slate-colored at base; hands and feet whitish; tail above like back, below lighter, except tip which is unicolor above and below.

Skull most like that of *dispar* in dental arrangement and position of infraorbital foramen; skull proportions normal for the genus; first and second unicuspidate teeth subequal, third and fourth about half as large as first and second, fifth minute but in line of toothrow; infraorbital foramen with posterior border lying behind the plane of interspace between second and third molar teeth.

MEASUREMENTS.—Taken in the flesh: Total length, 102 mm. (♂ 100, ♀ 95)¹; tail vertebrae, 47 (47,47); hindfoot, 10.5² (12,12); greatest length of skull, 16.9 (16.4, 16.3); greatest breadth of brain-case, 7.4 (7.2, 7.9); length of entire upper toothrow, 6.9 (6.8, 6.75).

Sorex gaspensis is quite readily distinguished from the other shrews of eastern North America by its color and size. The dark gray tone of its pelage is in marked contrast to the color of *personatus* and the other brown species. From the darker colored species, such as *fumeus* and *dispar*, the Gaspé species is differentiated by much smaller size, as well as slight color differences. Furthermore, the position of the infraorbital

¹Measurements in parentheses are those of two topotypes, male and female.

²It is probable that such an apparently small hindfoot is due to an error in measuring in the field, since the hindfoot dry measures more than 11 mm.

foramen definitely separates *gaspensis* from practically all other eastern shrews, *dispar* alone displaying similar skull characters.

We are indebted to the Bureau of Biological Survey for the loan of material to compare with the Gaspé shrews, and also to Dr. H. H. T. Jackson, who compared the type series of *Sorex gaspensis* with the large series of shrews in the collection at Washington, confirming our supposition as to the distinctness of the new form and as to the desirability of separating it from *dispar* on the basis of size and color.

There are three specimens in the type series, two males and one female, all taken in the same environment. The first specimen of this shrew was taken September 2 in one of several traps set along a small stream which rushed down the north slope of the Shickshock Mountains. The traps were set around old, dead tree stumps that were lying partly submerged and almost surrounded by water. On either side of the stream overhanging spruce trees shaded the spot, keeping it cool and damp.

Three days later a second specimen was taken ten miles beyond the place where the first was caught, in a trap set at the foot of a low cliff that faced a small stream. The position of the trap, which was set primarily for water-shrews, was such that the animal must have passed through shallow water to get at the trap. A dark, very damp forest spread out on all sides; deep moss covered the ground and completely obscured the little stream in places, while many of the trees were draped with hanging moss.

On September 7 the third specimen of this shrew was secured on a small stream which came down through a narrow canyon on the cool, north slope of Mt. Albert. The mountain on this side is covered with an unbroken, primeval forest of spruce and balsam. The trap was set in some driftwood and wet leaves which had caught between the boulders. Three water-shrews (*Neosorex*) were also secured on this stream.

Sorex gaspensis is a rare species, apparently, as in each place where specimens were taken a number of traps were kept set for several days, and traps were also set in similar places along the bank and in damp spots in the surrounding woods but no more than the three specimens were taken.

The traps were baited with bacon, which proved the most effective attraction for shrews.