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A New Short-tailed Shrew from Western Panama

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In a small collection of mammals from Chiriquí, recently contributed to the American Museum of Natural History by Dr. Frank A. Hartman, is a small shrew that apparently represents an unnamed species of *Cryptotis*. I am indebted to the United States National Museum for the use of comparative material.

Cryptotis tersus,¹ new species

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 164695; skin and skull; adult male, teeth unworn; Santa Clara, 4200 feet elevation, on the Pan American Highway, 15 miles from the border of Costa Rica, Chiriquí Province, Republic of Panama; collected by Frank A. Hartman, January, 1953. The type is the only known specimen and was originally preserved in spirits. Except for several small perforations made by bird shot, the skin is in good condition. The brain case of the skull has been crushed, but the anterior part, rostrum, and toothrows are complete.

GENERAL CHARACTERS: A very small, uniformly colored, blackish shrew with a short, blackish tail, blackish feet, and small, slender skull.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: Color of upper parts very dark Mummy Brown,² almost black; under parts Mummy Brown, not appreciably different in color from back but showing a reddish brown sheen in strong cross light; fore and hind feet blackish; tail unicolor, blackish, similar to dorsal coloration; lips blackish, claws silvery white.

The skull is small and slender, with a relatively narrow rostrum; superior outline depressed above orbits; upper tooththrow comparatively

¹ Refers to small size.

² Capitalized color terms are from Ridgway, "Color standards and color nomenclature," Washington, D. C., 1912.

straight and relatively long; the second upper unicuspid tooth slightly larger than the first unicuspid; third unicuspid small but relatively large for this tooth; fourth unicuspid tiny, crowded in medially from the toothrow, and barely perceptible in lateral view; large upper premolar relatively narrow anteriorly, and antero-internal cusp only slightly pigmented; the antero-internal cusps on m^1 and m^2 high and well pigmented.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: Skin (in spirits before skinning): Total length, 82 mm.; length of tail, 22.6 (length of tail vertebrae after skinning, 26); length of hind foot, 11. Skull: Length of upper toothrow entire, 8.5; width of m^1 , 1.5; width of rostrum between infraorbital foramina, 3.3; length of skull, 18.9?; greatest breadth of skull, 8.5?; length of mandibular toothrow, 8; greatest length of mandible including anterior teeth, 12.5.

REMARKS: Except for smaller size, *Cryptotis tersus* resembles in external appearance *C. nigricans* Allen from Costa Rica, but it has a smaller and narrower skull, smaller teeth, and straighter toothrow. Compared with a paratype of *C. zeteki* Setzer from Cerro Punta, Chiriquí, *tersus* is much darker in color, being almost black instead of Prout's Brown, and the fore and hind feet and lips are blackish instead of creamy white. In *tersus* the second unicuspid tooth is larger than the first, whereas these two teeth are subequal in *zeteki*, and *tersus* has the longer toothrow. From *Cryptotis endersi* Setzer from Cylindro, Chiriquí, *tersus* can be distinguished by its much smaller size and more crowded toothrow. From *C. jacksoni*, *C. merus*, *C. gracilis*, and *C. orophila*, *tersus* differs either in darker color or smaller size.

