

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SHREW (GENUS SOREX) FROM COAHUILA

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In the winter of 1941-1942, F. W. Miller, of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, Texas, sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for identification and study a collection of mammals that he had made in Sierra del Carmen, Coahuila, México, during the two preceding autumns. Many of the specimens have been kindly donated to the Biological Surveys collection by Mr. Miller, who will publish the results of both his field and the laboratory studies. Among the material are specimens of a heretofore unknown shrew, which is herewith named for the collector in recognition of his mammalogical work, and which may be recognized by the following description:

Sorex milleri, sp. nov.

Carmen Mountains Shrew

Type-specimen.—No. 274,950, U. S. National Museum, Biological Surveys collection; ♀ (?) adult, skin and skull; collected November 1, 1940, by F. W. Miller. Original number 19; Biological Surveys miscellaneous 32,327X.

Type-locality.—Madera Camp, altitude 8,000 feet, Carmen Mountains, Coahuila, Mexico.

Diagnostic characters.—Smallest of the *vagrans-obscurus* group, to which it apparently belongs. Color slightly more grayish than in *Sorex vagrans monticola*; distinctly paler and more grayish than in *S. v. orizabae*. Skull small (smallest of the *vagrans-obscurus* group), flattened, relatively broad interorbital constriction; dentition weak, the third upper unicuspid scarcely if any smaller than the fourth, almost equal to it in size.

Color.—Type specimen and topotype apparently in fresh winter pelage: upper parts between hair brown (colors of Ridgway, *Color standards and color nomenclature*, 1912) and drab, a little nearer drab; sides and flanks a trifle paler, drabbish; under parts pale smoke gray tinged with vinaceous buff; tail bicolor, light drab above, pinkish buff below.

Measurements.—Type-specimen: Total length, 95; tail vertebrae, 44; hind foot, 11. Skull of type-specimen: Condylbasal length, 15.5; palatal length, 6.2; breadth of cranium, 7.4; interorbital constriction, 3.7; maxillary breadth, 4.4; maxillary tooth row, 5.5.

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Remarks.—*Sorex milleri* is a small shrew, apparently of the *vagrans-obscurus* group, of which it is the smallest representative. It is known only from the type-locality in the Carmen Mountains, Mexico, whence are two specimens besides the type. One of these No. 274,951, U. S. National Museum, Biological Surveys collection is a mummy from which the imperfect skull has been removed. The other, F. W. Miller original number 20, deposited in the Dallas Museum of Natural History, is a skin with imperfect skull, the cranium being broken away and only the rostral part of skull remaining. The first upper incisors in the type-specimen are missing, so actually we do not yet have a perfect specimen of this form. Although the material seems to indicate affinities of this form with *Sorex vagrans*, there are no geographic intergrades and the specimens set themselves out clear-cut from *Sorex vagrans orizabae*, the nearest representative of that species. It seems best, therefore, under the circumstances to designate the form as a distinct species.
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.



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