

Sorex araneus LINNAEUS, 1758



P. Barrett

Similar in appearance to *Sorex coronatus*, *S. granarius* and *S. samniticus*. In small overlap zones it can be distinguished by skull characters and karyotype from these species.

Distribution

World: Palaearctic north to the Arctic coast and eastwards to Lake Baikal except for dry steppe and desert zones.

Europe: widely distributed, but absent from Ireland, Outer Hebrides, Shetland, most of France, Mediterranean zone including southern Balkans. Isolated populations in Pyrénées and Massif Central.

Geographic variation

About 19 subspecies have been described from Europe. However, status of most of them is uncertain. High degree of chromosomal variation due to Robertsonian translocations. Diploid number of chromosomes varies between 18–30. Around 50 karyotypic races are currently recognized within the distribution range.

Habitat

Prefers moist and cool habitats with dense vegetation cover. Highest densities in riverine forests and reed beds, but occurs in all kinds of forests, rock crevices and even in sand dunes. From sea level to 2480 m altitude.

Common shrew

AL	Hundegjati dhembekuq	LU	Bëschspëtzmaus
BG	Обикновена кафявозъбка	LV	Meža cirslis
CZ	Rejssek obecný	MK	Шумска ровка
DE	Waldspitzmaus	MT	-
DK	Almindelig spidsmus	NL	Gewone bosspitsmuis
EE	Mets-karihiir	NO	Vanlig spissmus
ES	Musaraña colicuadrada	PL	Ryjówka aksamitna
FI	Metsäpäästäinen	PT	-
FO	Trantmús	RO	Chițcanul-comun; Chițcanul-de-pădure
FR	Musaraigne carrelet	RU	Обыкновенная бурозубка
GR	Κοινή μυγαλίδα	SE	Vanlig näbbmus
HR	Šumska rovka	SI	Gozdna rovka
HU	Erdei cickány	SK	Piskor lesný
IR	-	TR	-
IS	Snjaldurmús	YU	Шумска ровчица
IT	Toporagno comune		
LT	Paprastasis kirstukas		

Population status

One of the most abundant shrew species. Densities vary between 1–50 individuals/ha according to season and habitat. Local declines because of habitat disturbances and pesticides possible.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

Literature

Hausser *et al.* (1990)

Zima *et al.* (1996)

M. Anděra

