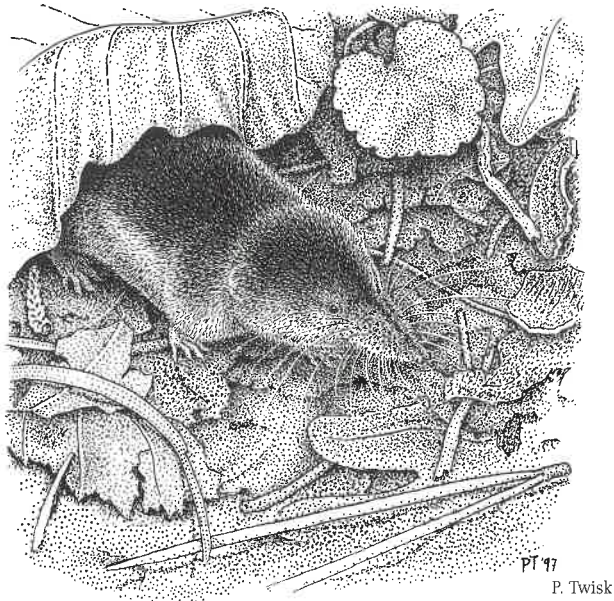


Sorex coronatus MILLET, 1828



Very similar to *S. araneus*, although clearly recognizable by its karyotype ($2N = 22$, $NF = 44$ in females). Several biochemical and genetic diagnostic markers have been described, of which urinary pepsines are probably the most useful for simple identification. Morphological determination is usually possible, but complex and geographical variation in size requires *ad hoc* analyses in different areas. The lack of clear and constant diagnostic morphological characters explains why in many publications this species is not distinguished from *S. araneus*.

Distribution

Endemic to Europe. Parapatric to *S. araneus* and largely to *S. granarius*. Distributed from Galicia and León on the northern coast of Spain to north-eastern Germany and western Austria. Limited by the Alps in the south-east and partially replaced by *S. araneus* in mountains above 800–1200 m, as well as in wet areas in the eastern and northern part of its distribution. In the south it is largely absent from the Mediterranean zone. Present on Jersey, but absent from the coastal dunes and polders of the Netherlands.

S. coronatus is apparently expanding its range to the detriment of *S. araneus* in recent times. This seems to be linked to climatic change.

Geographic variation

The largest *S. coronatus* are found along the Alps and in southern Germany; morphological clines lead to

Millet's shrew

AL -	LT -
BG -	LU Schabrackenspitzmaus
CZ Rejsek západoevropský	LV -
DE Schabrackenspitzmaus	MK -
DK -	MT -
EE -	NL Tweekleurige bosspitsmuis
ES Musaraña de Millet	NO -
FI Ranskanpäästäinen	PL Ryjówka Milleta
FO -	PT -
FR Musaraigne couronnée	RO -
GR -	RU -
HR Zapadnoeuropska šumska rovka	SE Millets näbbmus
HU Millet-cickány	SI Atlantska gozdna rovka
IR -	SK -
IS -	TR -
IT Toporagno di Millet	YU -

smaller individuals both to the north-west and the south-west. Uniformly dark individuals (*santonus* – morphotypes) are recorded from marshy areas of Charente, south-western France. They live in sympatry with normal three-coloured individuals and show the typical *S. coronatus* karyotype, so they should not be assigned a subspecific status. Otherwise two subspecies described: *S. c. euronotus* Miller, 1901 in south-western France and *S. c. fetalis* Miller, 1909 on Jersey.

Habitat

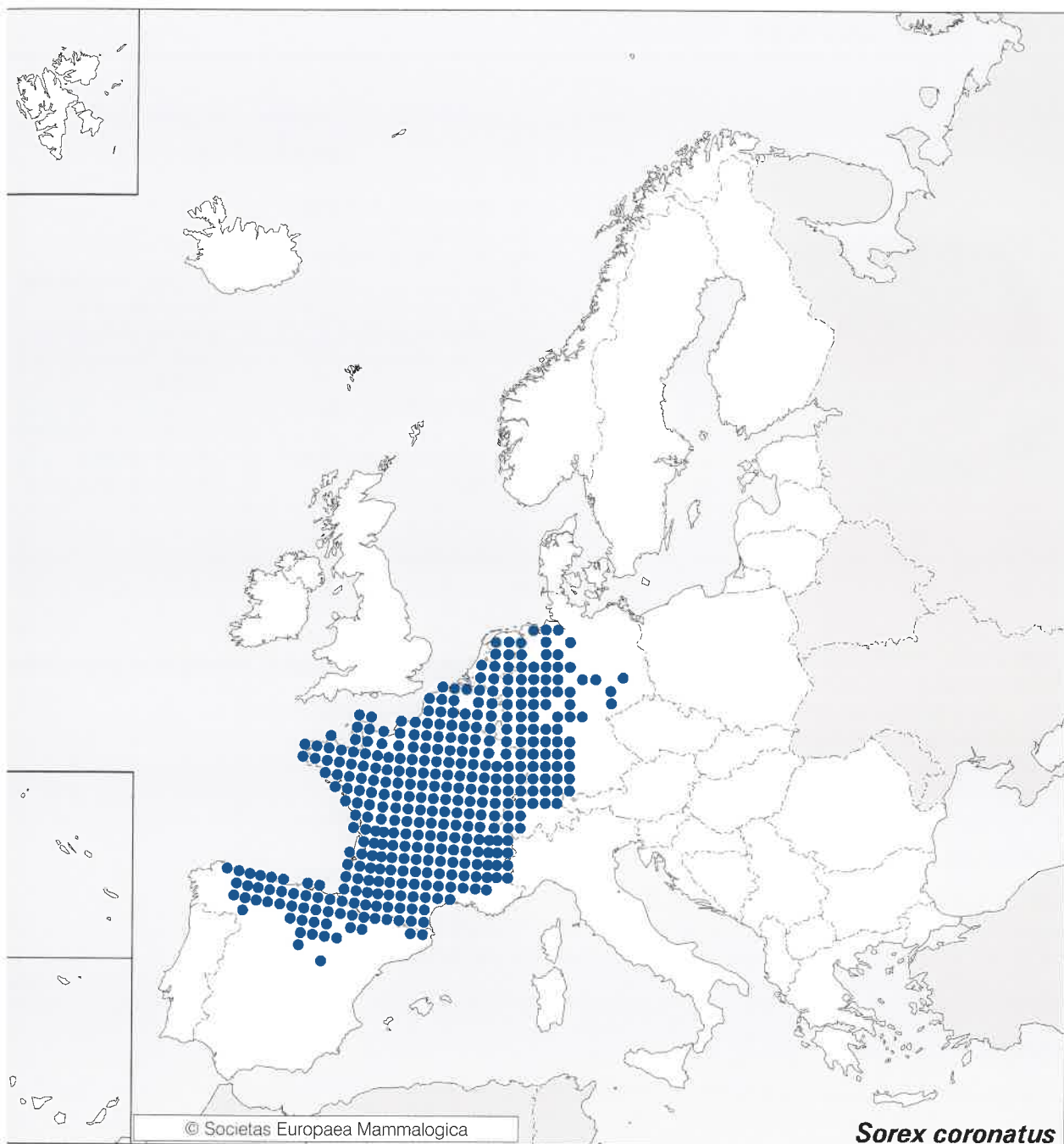
Typical *Sorex* habitats, with thick vegetation just above soil level; woods, hedges, abandoned or unmown meadows and marshes. Where in competition with the parapatric species *S. araneus*, limited to the drier and warmer parts of the biotope. Frequently excluded from gardens and the periphery of human settlements by *Crocidura russula*.

Population status

As with every species of *Sorex*, population numbers of *S. coronatus* are limited in intensively cultivated areas.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.



Literature

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J. Hausser