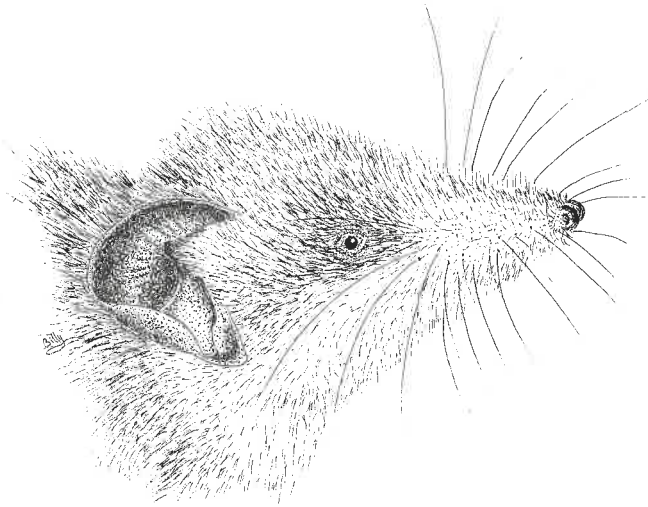


Crocidura suaveolens (PALLAS, 1811)



Z. Bihari

Allozyme and karyotype analyses demonstrated that shrews from Corsica, eastern Europe, Asia Minor and Israel previously considered as *C. russula* are in fact *C. suaveolens*.

Distribution

World: Palaearctic south of the 54th parallel from the Atlantic coast to Japan (Tsushima island). Known from Israel and Saudi Arabia, Asia Minor and the Caucasus, Kara-Kum and Kyzyl-Kum deserts as far as Lake Balkhash (Kazakhstan), southern Kyrgyzstan, North and South Korea, Taiwan, lowlands of north-eastern China between Shanghai and Beijing.

Europe: north-west of the Iberian Peninsula, western France (including some Atlantic and Channel islands) and from southern France to Italy and the Balkans, and to central and eastern Europe north to Poland. On most of the eastern Mediterranean islands and on Menorca, Corsica, Elba and Capraia.

Geographic variation

Morphologically and biochemically polymorphic. Size variation on the continent is obviously independent from genetic relationships. Several subspecies, many of them from islands, have been described, mainly due to their large size, but their status is not clear. Electrophoretic data indicate, that *Crocidura suaveolens cypria* Bate, 1904 from Cyprus is biochemically more distant from Turkish populations than is the case with *C. s. canaeae*

Lesser white-toothed shrew

AL	Hundegjati i vogel	LT	Mažasis baltadantis kirstukas
BG	Малка белозъбка	LU	Gaardespëtzmaus
CZ	Bělozubka šedá	LV	Mazais baltzobcirsliis
DE	Gartenspitzmaus	MK	Градинарска ровка
DK	Havespidsmus	MT	-
EE	Väikekarilik; Kodumutt	NL	Tuinspitsmuis
ES	Musaraña de campo	NO	Hagespissmus
FI	Kotipäästäinen	PL	Zębiełek karliczek
FO	-	PT	Musaranho-pequeno-dentes-brancos
FR	Crocidure des jardins	RO	Chițcanul-de-grădină
GR	Κηπομυγαλίδα	RU	Малая белозубка
HR	Poljska rovka	SE	Trädgårdsnäbbmus
HU	Keleti cickány	SI	Vrtna rovka
IR	-	SK	Bielozúbka krpata
IS	-	TR	Bahçe sivriburunu
IT	Crocidura minore	YU	Vrtna rovcića

Miller, 1909 from Crete. *C. s. enezsizunensis* (Heim de Balsac & Beaufort, 1966) from the isle of Sein is probably extinct and replaced by *C. russula*.

Habitat

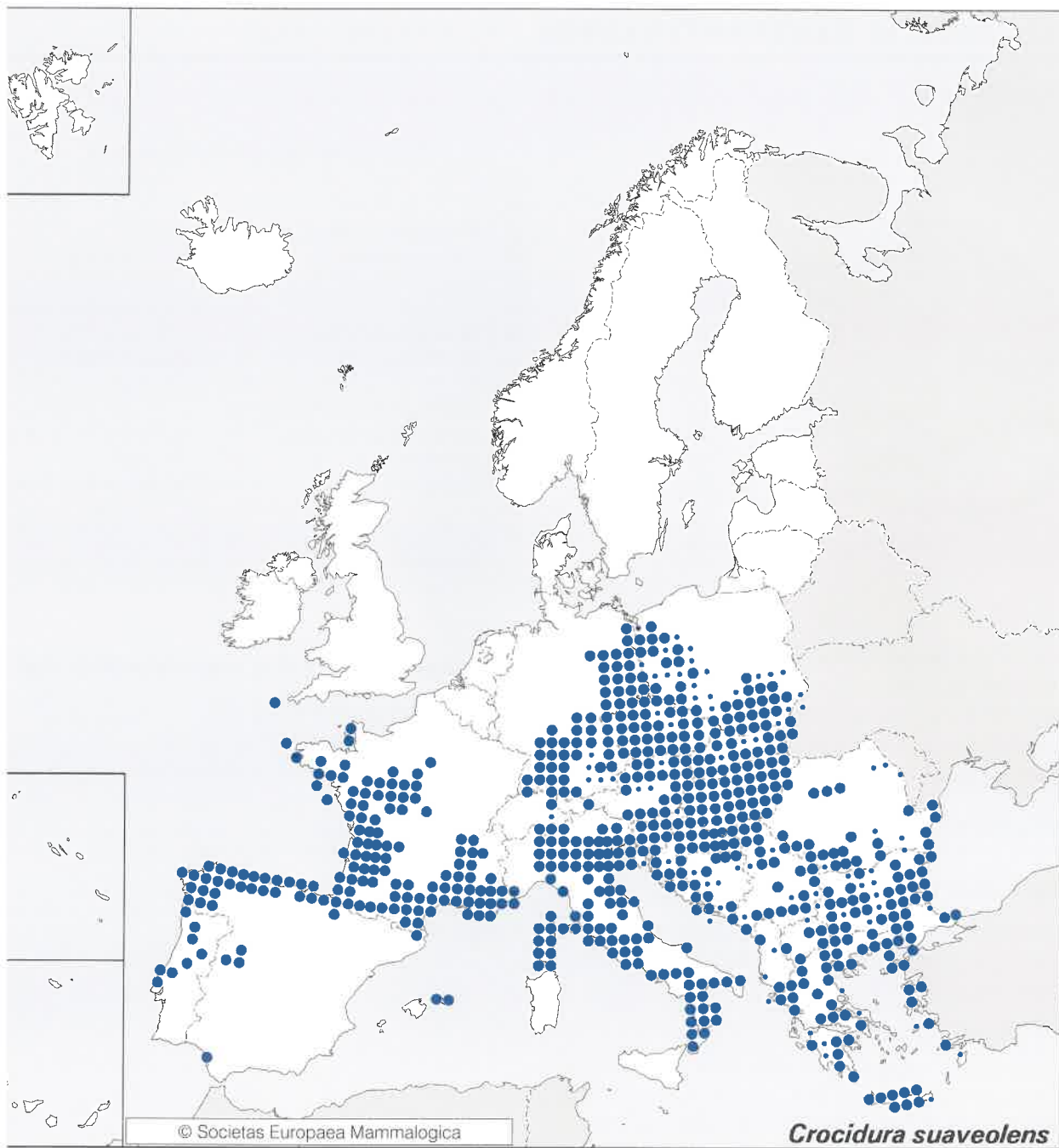
In north-eastern Europe and at higher altitudes synanthropic (houses, gardens and parks) especially in winter. In western and southern Europe occurs in a wide variety of habitats. Avoids dense forests, but is abundant in hedges, vineyards, olive groves, in coastal sand dunes and may also occur around boulders in mountainous areas. In the Mediterranean region in dry (old terraces with stone walls and in low maquis scrub) and wet places with dense vegetation. Found at altitudes between sea level and 1600 m but is quite rare above 1000 m.

Population status

Not very common in the western part of its range and much less abundant than *C. russula* when sympatric. Seems to have been replaced by *C. russula* owing to competitive exclusion mainly on small islands, but also in many continental places. May suffer from the use of insecticides and other toxic chemicals in agricultural areas.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III, but *C. s. canaeae* is on Appendix II as *C. s. ariadne*.



terature

sson *et al.* (1996)
 gelög *et al.* (1993)
 usák & Niethammer (1990) – review

R. Libois, M. G. Ramalhinho & R. Fons