

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SHREW FROM SWITZERLAND.*

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Among some shrews from Switzerland recently purchased by the United States National Museum is a strikingly characterized species of *Crocidura* to which none of the names based on members of the genus can be applied. It may be called:

***Crocidura mimula* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female (skin and skull) No. 105,801, United States National Museum. Collected at Züberwangen, St. Gallen, Switzerland, December 1, 1900, by Ernst H. Zollikofer. Original number, 192.

Characters.—Form, dentition, and general appearance as in *Crocidura russula*, but size conspicuously less (hind foot only 12 (11), greatest length of skull 16 instead of 19–21).

Color.—Entire dorsal surface sepia, faintly darker over lumbar region, the hairs showing bright silvery reflections when held in certain lights. Underparts dull ochraceous-buff, not sharply contrasted with color of sides. Chin whitish. The bases of the hairs are everywhere blackish slate, but this color does not appear at surface except irregularly and indistinctly on belly. Feet yellowish white. Tail ochraceous-

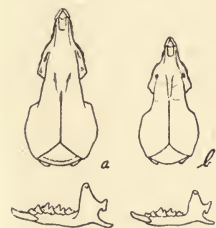


FIG. 1.—a. *Crocidura russula*, b. *C. mimula* (natural size).

buff, its upper surface tinged with sepia.

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Skull and teeth.—Although scarcely larger than that of *Sorex minutus*, the skull of *Crocidura mimula* retains the general form characteristic of *C. russula*. The rostral portion, however, is relatively shorter and wider than in the larger animal. In the type specimen the antorbital foramina are larger and more conspicuous, particularly when the skull is viewed from above, than in any of the specimens of *C. russula* with which I have compared it.

Teeth as in *Crocidura russula*, except for their noticeably smaller size.

Measurements.—External measurements of type: total length, 105; head and body, 72; tail vertebrae, 33; hind foot, 12 (11).

Cranial measurements of type: greatest length (exclusive of incisors), 16 (21);* greatest postorbital breadth, 7.8 (10); greatest antorbital breadth, 5.6 (7); least interorbital breadth, 3.8 (4.4); mandible, 8.4 (11); entire maxillary toothrow, 7.4 (9.4); entire mandibular toothrow, 6.8 (9).

Specimen examined.—One the type.

Remarks.—*Crocidura mimula* requires no special comparison with *C. russula*, as its size and the form of its skull serve to distinguish it at a glance.

*Measurements in parenthesis are those of the skull of an adult female *Crocidura russula* from St. Gallen.