SCALOPS ÆNEUS.—CASSIN.

BLACK-CLAWED SHREW MOLE.

SYNONYME.

SCALOPS ÆNEUS.—Cassin, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1853, p. 299.

DESCRIPTION.

Upper jaw, after the two incisors, having on each side seven false molars, which are pointed and nearly equal, except the last, which is double the size of either of the others, and has a small exterior basal lobe. Molars three; the first with four external lobes, the anterior being very small, the second large and pointed, the third short, blunt, and deeply emarginate, the fourth lobe also blunt and short; besides these the first molar has one interior and one posterior lobe, second molar with three short external lobes, the intermediate one emarginate; also two interior large and pointed, and one posterior similar to the interior lobe; third molar with two short external lobes, the posterior one emarginate, and two interior lobes and one posterior lobe.

Lower jaw with two incisors on each side, the anterior of which is the shorter; these are followed by six false molars, which are pointed and nearly equal in size, except the last, which is much larger and furnished with a minute posterior lobe at the base. Molars three, each deeply sulcate on the external surface and composed of two large external lobes and three smaller and shorter internal lobes.

First and fifth toes of fore-feet equal, second shorter, first and fifth toes of the hind-feet equal, other three nearly so.

COLOUR.

Entirely shining, brassy brown, very glossy, and in some lights appearing to be almost metallic; darker on the top of the head, and lighter and more obscure on the chin and throat; nose dusky; feet brownish; nails and first joint of the toes black; palms dusky; soles of the hind-feet dark brown; tail light brown, thinly furnished with scattering bristles.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.
Total length (of specimen in spirits), about - - - -	5
" " of head, - - - -	2
" " of fore-feet, - - - -	1.15
" " of hind-feet, - - - -	1.40
" " of tail, - - - -	1.25

GENERAL REMARKS.

This is the most beautiful species of mole yet discovered in America, and exhibits almost the brilliancy of colour which distinguishes the remarkable South African animals which form the genus *Chrysochloris*, of this family.

A single specimen, apparently fully adult, is in the collection of the Exploring Expedition, labelled as having been obtained in Oregon. In its dentition and otherwise it is a strict congener of *Scalops Townsendii*, but is much smaller and of a different color. Its black claws are especially remarkable, and distinguish it from all other species of the genus.

(CASSIN.)

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Scalops æneus, Black-clawed Shrew Mole." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 321–322.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322532>.

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