Fig. 2

Fig. 1

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

On Stones by W^m B. Hitchcock

Fig. 1 Southern Pocketed Rat. Fig. 2 DeKay's Shrew. Fig. 3 Long-Nosed Shrew. Fig. 4 Silvery Shrew-Mole.

Drawn from Nature by J. W. Audubon.

Lith. Printed & Col^d by J. T. Bowen, Phil

SOREX LONGIROSTRIS.—BACH.

LONG-NOSED SHREW.

PLATE CL. FIG. 3.—MALE.

S. Castaneus, rostro longo, caudâ longâ, auriculis amplis, vellere non occultis.

CHARACTERS.

Nose, long ; ears, large, and prominent ; tail, long ; general colour, chesnut.

SYNONYMES.

SOREX LONGIROSTRIS—LONG-NOSED SHREW. Bach., Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., vol. vii., part 2, p. 370. Anno 1837.

OTISOREX PLATYRHINUS. DeKay, Nat. Hist. State of New York, p. 22, pl. 5, fig. 1. 1842.

DESCRIPTION.

Dental Formula.—Incisive $\frac{2}{2}$; Canine $\frac{5-5}{2-2}$; Molar $\frac{4-4}{3-3} = 32$.

Nose, very long ; whole upper jaw bordered with whiskers, extending to the middle of the ear ; lower jaw, sparsely covered with the same kind of hair, but shorter ; extremity of the muzzle, naked, deeply indented and bilobed ; the eyes are distinctly visible, and larger than in most species of this genus ; the ear extends considerably beyond the fur, is comparatively large and thickly clothed within and without, with short soft hairs ; the auditory opening is covered with a large oblong lobe on which are sprinkled a few stiff long hairs ; tail, nearly round, but in the dried specimen becoming square ; it is clothed with short hair above and beneath, as also the feet and palms to the extremities of the nails ; toes, five ; the whole body is slender, and the feet small and weak. The fur is close, very fine, and glossy.

COLOUR.

Above, uniform chesnut ; beneath, a shade lighter ; points of the teeth, dark brown ; nails, horn colour, tipped with black.

DIMENSIONS.

								Inches.
Length from the nose to the origin of the tail,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$1\frac{7}{8}$
“ of tail,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
“ of head,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{7}{8}$
Height of ear, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Length of hind-foot from heel to end of nails, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{3}{8}$

We have since measured a specimen procured at Tulula falls in Georgia, the dimensions of which were as follows :

								Inches.	Lines.
Length from nose to origin of tail,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
“ of tail, -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3

HABITS.

We possess very little knowledge in regard to the habits of this little Shrew. The first specimen we saw was obtained in the swamps that border the Santee River, by Dr. ALEXANDER HUME ; his labourers found it whilst digging a ditch through grounds nearly overflowed with water. Another was obtained in a singular manner. Whilst we were at the house of Major LEE in Colleton district, his huntsman brought in some wild ducks, and among the rest a hooded merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*). There was a protuberance on the throat of this bird, appearing as if it had not fully swallowed some article of food at the time it was shot. On opening the throat, it was found to contain this little Shrew, which was fresh, and not in the least mutilated.

We saw two or three Shrews in the same vicinity which we think were of this species, coming out of a bank on the edge of a rice field and swimming in the canal at the dusk of the evening. From the above circumstances we are induced to think that this quadruped prefers low swampy situations, and is to a certain extent aquatic in its habits. We more recently obtained a specimen from Col. W. E. HASKELL, of St. Paul's parish, South Carolina, which was a shade lighter, and a little larger, than others in our possession, but presented no specific differences.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

The Long-nosed Shrew (although apparently very sparingly) is found in South Carolina. We saw a specimen in the possession of the keeper of the public house at the Tulula falls in the mountains of Georgia. It evidently extends throughout the middle States, and has been taken in New York and New England.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The American Shrews may be easily arranged into three natural groups ; first, those with short ears and tail, of which *Sorex DeKayi* would form the type ; second, those with large palms, broadly fringed, such as *S. fimbripes* ; and third, those with long ears and tail, of which the present species would be the type.

We perceive that Dr. DEKAY has formed the present species into a new genus, *Otisorex* ; but as the European naturalists had previously proposed a number of genera, one of which would include the present species, we prefer for the present leaving our American Shrews in the genus *Sorex*. We have no hesitation in saying that Dr. DEKAY's species *platyrhinus*, on which his genus was founded, is identical with *S. longirostris*, the subject of our present article.

Audubon, John James and Bachman, John. 1854. "Sorex longirostris, Long-nosed Shrew [Pl. CL, male]." *The quadrupeds of North America* 3, 249–251. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322571>.

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