

A NEW LOCALITY FOR THE PYGMY SHREW (*SOREX HOYI WINNEMANA*) IN TENNESSEE

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ABSTRACT

The pygmy shrew, *Sorex hoyi winnemana* (= *Microsorex thompsoni winnemana*; Diersing, 1980), was first reported in Tennessee by Kennedy et al. (1979). Additional records were listed by Kennedy and Harvey (1980). At present *S. h. winnemana* is known only from eastern and middle Tennessee. The purpose of this paper is to record the existence of *S. h. winnemana* at the western edge of the Western Highland Rim physiographic region (Miller, 1974). This report represents the westernmost occurrence of this species in Tennessee.

EVIDENCE

On 4 August 1987, an adult male specimen of *Sorex hoyi winnemana* was collected from a pitfall trap in Perry County, Tennessee approximately 3.5 miles north and 6.5 miles west of Linden. The presence of a reduced third and fifth unicuspid positively identified this specimen as *S. hoyi*. This individual weighed 2 grams and measured 71 mm in total length, 25 mm in tail length, 25 mm in hind foot length, and 3 mm in ear length. The specimen was deposited in the Schmidt Museum of Natural History at Emporia State University.

Eighty pitfall traps were set approximately 3 m apart in the hollows of steep graded hillsides for two nights. Traps were placed in pine vole (*Microtus pinetorum*) runways or next to fallen logs in leaf litter that was approximately 6 cm deep. The pygmy shrew was collected at the bottom of a hillside on the edge of a dry creek bed. The soil was dry, and decomposing cherty limestone was abundant. Dominant vegetation included elm (*Ulmus* spp.), oak (*Quercus* spp.), hickory (*Carya* spp.), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and maple (*Acer* spp.) with ferns, honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) abundant in the understory. Many fallen logs were present in the area. Other vertebrates captured in the area included worm snake (*Carphophis amoenus*), fence

lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris*) and pine vole (*Microtus pinetorum*).

This specimen from Perry County was collected approximately 240 km west of the westernmost record reported by Kennedy and Harvey (1980) for Tennessee. Throughout the range of *S. hoyi* in the United States, the shrew is usually associated with water, either swampy meadows, mesic forests, or dry meadows within 100 yards of water (Long, 1972). However, at this locality no standing water was evident and the soil was dry, though the leaf litter near the creek bed was moist. The creek at this locality is an intermittent stream that is likely to contain water only during the wettest parts of the year. Other than the lack of water, the habitat was fairly typical of that reported for other specimens of *S. hoyi* (Long, 1972).

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