

An albino specimen of *Microtus oeconomus arenicola* (de Sélys-Longchamps, 1841)

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Eingang des Ms. 24. 12. 1964

During fieldwork on the island of Texel, which is situated north of the Dutch province of Noord-Holland, the author was lucky to obtain, besides 45 specimens of normal colour, one completely white Root Vole. This rare animal was caught on the 22th of June 1964 by the dog owned by the State decoy for duck-ringing at De Koog. As this mutation has not yet been described in connection with the subspecies *arenicola*, it might be useful here to publish some data on the rodent concerned.

Length of head and body of the intact specimen, a male, 106,6 mm, tail length 40,5 mm, length hindfoot (without nail) 19,4 mm, ear length 10,2 mm; weight 41,0 g. A few dimensions of the skull are: condylobasal length 25,0 mm, mastoid breadth 10,5 mm, zygomatic width 14,3 mm, diastema 7,6 mm and maxillary toothrow 6,2 mm. The fur was completely white, the ears were white too, the feet and the tail pinkish and the eyes red.

In view of the dimensions and the weight of the intact vole and the measurement of the skull and testes (greatest length 8,4 mm), it is clear the animal was not yet adult.

Skin and skull of this albino specimen are now in the collections of the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam (Reg. no. ZMA 7646). For new data on *Microtus oeconomus arenicola* I may refer to ZIMMERMANN & VAN WIJNGAARDEN (1965), *Z. Säugetierk.* 30, 129–136. COLLETT, 1911/12 (according to ZIMMERMANN, 1942) makes mention of an albino and a red-yellowish specimen of *Microtus oeconomus*. STURM (1936) described some aberrant Root Voles from Pommern, Germany: „Auffällig ist bei verschiedenen (ad. u. juv.) ein reinweißer Fleck am Kinn, der sich bei einigen als ca. 5 mm breiter und 23 mm langer Streifen auf den Unterhals erstrecken kann. Ich sah ihn auch bei einem Stück des Stettiner Museums.“

According to STEIN (1964, in litteris) Root Voles with this aberration in the fur of the chin are not exactly rare near Fürstenwalde (Spree). Among hundreds of Root Voles caught there, STEIN did not find any other differences in colour. STEIN also collected extensive material of *Microtus oeconomus* from Reipzig near Frankfurt a. O. He did find no other colour aberration than a specimen, the back of which was spotted (see also ZIMMERMANN, 1942). With regard to other colour aberrations in *Microtus oeconomus* is referred to ZIMMERMANN (1942).

The author wishes to thank hereby Mr. M. EELMAN (De Koog, Texel) and Mr. G. J. DE HAAN (Den Burg, Texel) for their help during the fieldwork and Dr. G. H. W. STEIN (Berlin) for his notes on aberrant coloured Root Voles.

References

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