

The Etruscan Shrew, *Suncus etruscus* (Savi, 1822), found on Samos, Greece

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As far as can be gathered from literature, *Suncus etruscus* has hitherto been found in only three localities in Greece. Two of these are in the mainland (surroundings of the Gulf of Lamia, province of Phthiotis: MILLER, 1912; and Akrokorinth on the Peloponnesos: WETTSTEIN, 1941). The third habitat is on the Ionian island of Corfu (Ag. Mathaeos and Ropa: NIETHAMMER, 1962).

Since recent publications on the Etruscan Shrew and on southeastern European mammals (see VAN DEN BRINK, 1955; KAHMANN and ALTNER, 1956 and ONDRIAS, 1965) do not feature the occurrence of the species — despite of its extensive geographical distribution — in the eastern part of the Balkan, nor in the Aegean islands and Asia Minor, it seems worthwhile to record the capture of three specimens on the East-Aegean island of Samos in May, 1963. This new record supports the surmise of KAHMANN & ALTNER, who expected *Suncus etruscus* to be living in the Asiatic part of Turkey. Biogeographically speaking, Samos belongs to Asia Minor.

In numerical characters the specimens do not exceed the ranges of variation as indicated by KAHMANN and ALTNER (1956) and by NIETHAMMER (1962). There is no reason to question their arrangement in the nominate European subspecies *Suncus etruscus etruscus* (Savi, 1822). Actually, the material is of course too little for taxonomic treatment.

The habitat of the Etruscan Shrew on Samos is in agreement with the descriptions by KAHMANN and ALTNER. Both specimens from Pyrgos, a village in the middle of the island, were caught in break-back traps about one kilometer from the village, upstream the brook Amphilyssos. The slopes of the glen there are largely occupied

Measurements of body and skull of specimens of *Suncus etruscus*, collected on Samos, and preserved in the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam

Reg. nr.	Locality and date				Sex	HB	T	HF	W	Remarks
ZMA 8366	Pythagoreion, 20-V-1963				—	—	—	—	—	found in a state of decomposition
ZMA 8367	Pyrgos, 25-V-1963				♀	42,5	24,5	7,4	2,5	
ZMA 8368	Pyrgos, 30-V-1963				♀	42,8	27,9	7,3	—	
Reg. nr.	cb	br	pl	ab	ib	lma	lmt	lmat	hrm	
ZMA 8366	—	—	—	—	—	5,8	—	4,8	2,8	
ZMA 8367	—	—	4,9	2,3	2,9	5,8	4,2	4,8	2,8	
ZMA 8368	12,6	5,7	4,9	2,4	3,0	6,0	4,3	5,1	2,8	

HB = Length of head and body, T = length of tail, HF = length of hind foot, W = weight in grams, cb = condylobasal length, br = breadth of braincase, pl = palatal length, ab = anteorbital breadth, ib = interorbital breadth, lma = length of mandible, lmt = length of maxillary tooth row, lmat = length of mandibular tooth row, hrm = height of the ramus mandibulae. Measurements are given in millimeters.

by vegetable gardens on irrigated terraces. These are walled in by piled up stones or natural rocks. The shrews were both collected along such walls not far from the brook. *Suncus* is supposed to prefer rather humid surroundings and rough vegetation. The same may be stated with regard to other species of small mammals caught: *Crocidura gueldenstaedti* (Pallas, 1811) (for systematics of our specimens we refer to RICHTER, 1966), *Apodemus cf. sylvaticus dichrurus* Rafinesque, 1814 and *Mus musculus cf. praetextus* Brants, 1827. These three species were collected in larger numbers together with *Suncus etruscus* on the lower terraces and under the plane tree cover of the brook banks. Where natural rock formations border the terraces or the brook, and the gardens are replaced by light fir wood, exclusively *Apodemus mystacinus smyrnensis* Thomas, 1903 is living. 42 specimens of the latter species were collected, which are taxonomically dealt with by ONDRIAS, 1966.

In addition to these, the occurrence of four other species of mammals on Samos can be established: *Erinaceus europaeus* Linnaeus, 1758: one destroyed skull was found in a dry well at Pyrgos; *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774) (see VAN LAAR and DAAN, 1964); *Rattus rattus frugivorus* Rafinesque, 1814: one female specimen was collected at Pyrgos (see ONDRIAS, 1966); and *Canis aureus* Linnaeus, 1758. The howl of the jackal was heard many times during the night in the central mountains of Samos, and inhabitants of the villages confirmed its presence.

Altogether the mammalian fauna of Samos, nothing of which was known before, now comprises nine species, but surely more will be added in future.

While this paper was in press, the discovery has been reported of skulls of the Etruscan Shrew in owl pellets on the island of Rhodes; H. PIEPER (1966) *Acta biol. Hellenica* 1, 21—28.

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