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## WISSENSCHAFTLICHE KURZMITTEILUNG

### An additional note of albinism in *Sorex araneus*

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Recently, FONS et al. (1983) reviewed information on the albinism in Soricidae. Their table (p. 120) did not include a single case of albinism, either total or partial, in *Sorex* from Fennoscandia. We have studied about 20 000 *Sorex* individuals in Finland since 1955. In this material we have found only 2 cases of albinism in *S. araneus*.

A young, totally albino *Sorex araneus* was trapped in a parkland area in Helsinki, southern Finland, in November 1964. A similar, young individual was found in Luhanka, Central Finland, in October 1967. The animals were not pure white, but had a slight creamish (beige) shade in their fur. The eyes were reddish, and vibrissae as well as other hairs were without pigment.

Small mammals in both areas had been monitored over a decade before the records of albinism and several years after them, but no other cases of albinism were found.

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