

RANGE EXTENSIONS FOR THE ALASKA TINY SHREW AND PYGMY SHREW IN SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA

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We documented range extensions for the Alaska tiny shrew (*Sorex yukonicus*) and the pygmy shrew (*Sorex hoyi*) in 1996, during the most extensive small mammal trapping study to date in southwestern Alaska. Our study occurred along the Goodnews River in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, southwestern Alaska. The Goodnews River is located approximately 150 km W of Dillingham, Alaska. The vegetation characteristics of the area include willows (*Salix* spp.), bogs and tussock tundra in riparian areas, and dry tundra and alder (*Alnus* spp.) in mountainous terrain. From 26 June to 5 September 1996, we tallied 3600 total trap nights using snap and pitfall traps.

Alaska Tiny Shrew

In 1993 a new species of shrew from Alaska was identified and named the Alaska tiny shrew (Dokuchaev 1997. *Journal of Mammalogy* 78(3):811-817). Dokuchaev (1997) described the 7 known specimens and their localities in detail. We captured 3 additional specimens of the Alaska tiny shrew. The 1st specimen was captured on 26 August and the 2nd was captured on 30 August. Both were collected in an open low mixed shrub sedge tussock tundra habitat (Viereck and others 1992. The Alaska vegetation classification. Portland, OR: USDA Forest Service. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-286, 278 p.) located at 59°18'42"N, 161°06'51"W. The 3rd specimen was captured on 30 August in a closed tall willow shrub habitat (Viereck and others 1992) located at 59°17'59"N, 161°06'53"W. The specimens were placed in the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Museum archives and given UAM numbers 45820, 45843, and 45841, respectively.

The Alaska tiny shrew was previously known from only 3 localities in Alaska: 1) Galena on the Yukon River (64°44'N, 156°50'W), 2) 140 km E of Galena near the Yukon River (64°47' N, 157°11'W) and 3) the Upper Susitna River in south-central Alaska (62°49'N, 149°08'W) (Dokuchaev 1997). The specimens captured in this study were collected approximately 546 km SSW of localities 1 and 2 and 759 km SW of locality 3, representing a significant range extension.

Dokuchaev (1997) suggested the Alaska tiny shrew was widespread but scarce in subarctic Alaska. Our study further suggests the species is widespread yet uncommon in Alaska. Only 3 specimens were captured in 3600 trap nights and these captures occurred in the fall when shrew populations were typically at peak densities (Churchfield 1990. The natural history of shrews. Ithaca, NY: Comstock Publishing Associates, 178 p.).

Pygmy Shrew

We captured 5 pygmy shrews from 26 August to 30 August. Two specimens were captured in the open low mixed shrub sedge habitat (location above) and a 3rd specimen was captured in the closed tall willow shrub habitat (location above). The remaining 2 specimens were captured in the near vicinity. These records represent a westward extension of approximately 125 km W of the previously documented range of this species (Hall 1981. The mammals of North America, 2nd edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons; Nolan and Peirce 1996. *Northwestern Naturalist* 77:44-45). Specimens were placed in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum archives and given UAM

numbers 45754, 45894, 45911, 45693, and 45697, respectively.

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