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A NEW WATER-SHREW (*SOLEX PALUSTRIS*)
FROM LABRADOR

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A SPECIMEN of water-shrew in the Museum of Zoology collection represents what appears to be an undescribed race of the species *palustris* from Labrador. I wish to propose for this race the name

Sorex palustris labradorensis, n. subsp.

Labrador Water-shrew

TYPE.—Female adult, skull and skin; U.M.M.Z. No. 68109; Red Bay, Straits of Belle Isle, Labrador; February 9, 1933; collected by E. Doane.

MEASUREMENTS (in mm.).—Type: total length, 146; tail vertebrae, 71; hind foot, 20. Skull: condylo-basal length, 19.7; palatal length, 8.6; cranial breadth, 9.7; interorbital breadth, 4.4; maxillary breadth, 5.9; maxillary tooth row, 7.7. Skull measurements taken according to Jackson¹ with whose measurements the above should be compared.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known only from the type locality but probably ranges along the Saint Lawrence River as far as Godbout, Quebec.

¹ H. H. T. Jackson, "A Taxonomic Review of the American Long-tailed Shrews," *N. Amer. Fauna*, No. 51 (1928): 13.

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CHARACTERS.—A small water-shrew, about the size of *S. p. gloveralleni*. Upperparts fuscous black, underparts silver gray in winter pelage. Tail bicolor, black above with whitish ventral stripe extending about three-fourths distance to tip. Skull relatively narrow, brain case flattened, fifth unicuspid large.

COMPARISONS.—As compared with *albibarbis*, the nearest geographic race, *labradorensis* differs in smaller size, more flattened brain case, smaller and less robust molar teeth, and in having the third and fifth unicuspids larger in proportion to the others as viewed from the palatal aspect (in specimens of comparable tooth wear). In coloration of the only available specimen of *labradorensis*, in winter pelage, the silvery gray of the underparts contrasts strongly with the black of the upperparts, thereby differing from the nearly uniform color of *albibarbis*. In cranial characters *labradorensis* seems to be closest to *gloveralleni*. It differs, however, in having a longer, narrower skull, heavier teeth with larger fifth unicuspid, and less inflated squamosal region. Coloration cannot be compared as comparable pelages are not available for the two races. From *hydrobadistes* it may be distinguished chiefly by its smaller skull, more flattened brain case, and larger fifth unicuspid. Coloration in winter pelage is similar in the two.

REMARKS.—In his revision of the long-tailed shrews, Jackson² stated that three specimens from Godbout, Quebec, had weaker dentition than typical *albibarbis*, also, as far as he could judge from the alcoholic specimens, the ventral parts were somewhat paler than in typical *albibarbis*, in these respects approaching *gloveralleni*. These characters apply also to *labradorensis*, and I suspect that future collecting will show that *labradorensis* ranges up along the Saint Lawrence River and intergrades with *albibarbis* in the region of Godbout, Quebec.

² *Ibid.*, p. 182.

