

THE SHREWS OF THE EASTERN CANARY ISLANDS: A NEW SPECIES (MAMMALIA: SORICIDAE)

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Abstract

The karyotype, morphology and biology of *Crocidura* from Fuerteventura (Canary Islands) are described. The species has a diploid chromosome number of $2n = 36$, thus differing from all other species of the genus. A detailed morphological comparison of the shrews from Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and other islets with *C. russula* from Morocco revealed specific characters for both taxa. Differences were also observed in biological parameters. It is concluded that the Canary Island populations of *Crocidura* form a biological species which is consequently named *Crocidura canariensis* sp. Nov.