

BRIEF NOTE

SMOKY SHREW *SOREX FUMEUS FUMEUS* MILLER IN THE UNGLACIATED PORTION OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY¹

DALE J. EICHER, Natural History Department, The Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

OHIO J. SCI. 80(3): 144, 1980

The distribution of the smoky shrew *Sorex fumeus fumeus* Miller in Ohio has been summarized by Bole and Moulthrop (1942), Enders (1930), Hamilton (1940), and Jackson (1928). All the authors agree that the smoky shrew is absent from the plains portion of the state, but there seems to be some difference of opinion regarding the distribution between the glaciated and unglaciated portions of the Alleghany Plateau. Enders (1930) believes the species more abundant in the unglaciated plateau while Bole and Moulthrop (1940) largely restrict it to the glaciated portion of the plateau.

We captured a smoky shrew in a museum special trap on December 22 and another on December 28 during a mammal inventory of Wahkeena State Memorial Nature Preserve. Wahkeena State Memorial is located in Fairfield Co., Berne Township Section 4 and 5, 1 mi west of Sugar Grove and 6 mi south of Lancaster, 82° 30' W, 39° 37' 30" N. The study area lies approximately 1 mile southeast of the glaciated portion of the Alleghany Plateau. Measurements of the specimens in millimeters were 103-40-11 and 98-42-11. Both specimens were captured under deadfalls of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and white oak (*Quercus alba*), which showed evidence of being well traveled runways. This finding supports the fact that the shrews do little burrowing and utilize the runways of other species (Hamilton 1940). The study area was of mixed hardwood

regenerating with a dominant canopy of white oak (*Quercus alba*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra* var. *borealis*), and tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) with a ground cover primarily of poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), and maple-leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*). The specimens were freeze-dried and are in the Natural History Synoptic collection of The Ohio Historical Society, Catalogue #14456 and 14457.

Three other specimens have been recorded from Fairfield Co., but all were captured in the glaciated portion of the county. My examination of other study skins revealed a number of specimens from unglaciated counties—Hocking, Carroll, and Ross suggesting that the smoky shrew is equally abundant in the unglaciated and glaciated plateau portion of the state.

Acknowledgments. Many thanks to Woodrow Goodpaster for identification of specimens and to Tom Wood and Ann Bingaman for the vegetational study and assistance in trapping.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bole, B. P. Jr. and P. N. Moulthrop 1942 The Ohio recent mammal collection in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. *Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist.* 5: 83-181.
- Enders, R. 1930 Some factors influencing the distribution of mammals in Ohio. *Occasional papers of the Univ. Mich. Museum Zool.* No. 212.
- Hamilton, W. J. Jr. 1940 The biology of the smoky shrew (*Sorex fumeus fumeus*). *Zoologica.* 25: 473-492.
- Jackson, H. 1928 A taxonomic review of the American long-tailed shrew *N. Amer. Fauna* No. 51: July 1928.

¹Manuscript received 23 February 1979 (#79-12).