A REPORT OF SUNCUS ETRUSCUS (SAVI, 1822) (MAMMALIA: SORICIDAE) FROM WESTERN UPPER TRACIAN VALLEY, BULGARIA

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Abstract: In pellets of Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769) collected from Manole village (to the east of the town of Plovdiv, UTM LG27) a single skull of Suncus etruscus (Savi, 1822) was found. This finding is the most western known record of the species in Bulgaria.

Key words: Suncus etruscus, Upper Tracian Valley, Bulgaria.

INTRODUCTION

The pygmy white-toothed shrew Suncus etruscus (Savi, 1822) distribution in Bulgaria was well studied mostly in South-Eastern Bulgaria. The species was found only in this part of the country, and total in 37 UTM-grid squares it was registered (VOHRALIK, 1985; POPOV & NIJAGOLOV, 1991; POPOV, 2000; PESHEV et al., 2004; POPOV et al., 2004; GEORGIEV, 2004). POPOV & NIJAGOLOV (1991) supposed that it could also occur in all of the warmer parts of Struma and Maritza Valleys.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

On 22.10.2005, pellets of nesting Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769) were collected from Manole village (to the east of the town of Plovdiv, UTM LG27). The pellets (n=21 and separate bone remains) were softened into water to separate the pray items. The small mammals were identified using keys by ПОПОВ & СЕДЕФЧЕВ (2003).
RESULTS
Among chitin remains of *Mantis religiosa* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Coleoptera* indet., bones of unidentified birds: *Passeriformes* indet., and mammals: *Crocidura leucodon* (Herman, 1780), *Crocidura suaveolens* (Pallas, 1811), *Neomys anomalus* Crabrera, 1907, *Sylvaemus flavicollis* (Melchior, 1834), *Apodemus agrarius* (Pallas, 1771), *Mus* sp., *Microtus* sp., a single fragmentized skull of *Suncus etruscus* was found (Fig. 1).

This finding is the most western known record of the species in Bulgaria (Fig. 2).

![Fig. 1: The found skull of pygmy white-toothed shrew (*Suncus etruscus*) – right, compared with this one of bicolored white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura leucodon*) – left.](image1)

*Fig. 1: The found skull of pygmy white-toothed shrew (*Suncus etruscus*) – right, compared with this one of bicolored white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura leucodon*) – left.*

![Fig. 2: Known localities of *Suncus etruscus* in Bulgaria.](image2)

*Fig. 2: Known localities of *Suncus etruscus* in Bulgaria.*

*Фиг. 2: Известни находища на *Suncus etruscus* в България (с черен цвят е отбележано новото находище).*
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REFERENCES


СЪОБЩЕНИЕ ЗА SUNCUS ETRUSCUS (SAVI, 1822) (MAMMALIA: SORICIDAE) ОТ ЗАПАДНАТА ЧАСТ НА ГОРНОТРАКИЙСКАТА НИЗИНА, БЪЛГАРИЯ

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(резюме)

В погалки на гнездяща *Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769), събрани в с. Маноле (източно от град Пловдив, UTM LG27) е установен един череп на *Suncus etruscus* (Savi, 1822). Това е най-западното известно до сега находище на вида в България.