

2. BLARINA.

Blarina, Gray, P. Z. S. 1837, p. 124.

Brachysorex, Duvernoy, Mag. de Zool. 1842, p. 37.

This curious New-World form seems worthy of full generic distinction, being specially characterized by the minute size and peculiar structure of the external ear-conch, which is folded forwards so as to cover and completely conceal the auditory meatus. The genus has been divided by Dr. Elliott Coues into restricted *Blarina* and *Soriciscus*—the former with five “upper unicuspid,” making the whole number of teeth $\frac{20}{12}=32$, the latter with only *four*, so that the teeth number $\frac{18}{12}=30$ in all*. From Dr. E. Brandt’s observations it appears that the tooth which is wanting in the latter section is the last lateral incisor†.

The only two species of *Blarina* which have yet been recorded from our sub-region belong to *Soriciscus*, and may be diagnosed as follows:—

1. *B. micrura*. Dark greyish-brown above, shading to dull grey beneath, washed with fulvous on the breast and belly. Length 2"·30, of tail 0"·80.
2. *B. mexicana*. “Unicolor, entirely sooty blackish-brown, merely a little paler below.” Length 2"·50, of tail 1"·00.

1. ***Blarina micrura***. (Tab. V. fig. 2.)

Corsira tropicalis, Gray, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 79 (sine descr.)¹.

Sorex micrurus, Tomes, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 279 (descr. orig.)².

?*Sorex*, sp., Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 323³.

Blarina micrura, Alston, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 446⁴.

Blarina (Soriciscus) micrura, Coues, Bull. U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Surv. iii. p. 638 (footnote)⁵.

Hab. GUATEMALA, Coban (*Mus. Brit.*^{1 4}, *Salvin*²); COSTA RICA (*Frantzius*³; *Carmioli*, *U.S. Nat. Mus.*⁵).

This is another of the Guatemalan animals which Gray named in 1843 without giving any characters¹; and it was not till eighteen years later that the species was described by Mr. Tomes from specimens collected by Mr. Salvin near Coban (not Dueñas as stated by Mr. Tomes), one of which was picked up dead in a forest path². Further south of Guatemala a small species of Shrew was observed in Costa Rica by Dr. v. Frantzius; but he was unable to obtain specimens. Examples from that country, however, have lately been sent to the Washington Museum by the well-known collector Carmiol, one of which was kindly intrusted to me by Dr. Elliott Coues; and I was unable to find that it differed in any respect from the *Corsira tropicalis* of Gray and the *Sorex micrurus* of Tomes.

Dr. Coues remarks that the Costa-Rica Shrew is “very closely related to United-

* Bull. U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Surv. iii. pp. 647–649 (1877).

† Zool. Rec. 1866, p. 27.