



## A new species of *Crocidura* (Soricomorpha: Soricidae) from southern Vietnam and north-eastern Cambodia

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### Abstract

Knowledge of the Soricidae occurring in Vietnam has recently expanded with the discovery of several species previously unknown to science. Here we describe a new species of white-toothed shrew belonging to the genus *Crocidura* from lowland areas in southern Vietnam and from a river valley in north-eastern Cambodia. This small to medium sized species is diagnosed on the basis of external features, cranial proportions and morphology of the last upper and lower molars. Comparisons are made with other species of *Crocidura* known to occur in Vietnam and the biogeography of the regions where the new species has been found, is briefly discussed.

**Key words:** white-toothed shrew, Vietnam, Cambodia

### Introduction

Knowledge of the soricid fauna of South-East Asia and particularly that of Vietnam is still poorly understood, while that of Cambodia is virtually unknown (Jenkins, 1982; Heaney & Timm, 1983; Jenkins & Smith, 1995; Motokawa *et al.*, 2005; Jenkins *et al.*, 2009). In 1983, Heaney & Timm recorded only three species of *Crocidura* for Vietnam, namely *C. attenuata* Milne Edwards, 1872, *C. fuliginosa* (Blyth, 1855) and *C. indochinensis* Robinson and Kloss, 1922. Recent small mammal surveys in Vietnam have resulted in the discovery of new distributional records of shrews, *C. wuchihensis* Shaw, Wang, Lu and Chang, 1966 (Lunde *et al.*, 2003) and *Blarinella griselda* Thomas, 1912 (Abramov *et al.*, 2007), and the description of several additional new species, including *Chodsigoa caovansunga* Lunde, Musser and Son, 2003, *Crocidura kegoensis* Lunde, Musser and Ziegler, 2004, *C. sokolovi* and *C. zaitsevi* Jenkins *et al.*, 2007, and *C. phuquocensis* Abramov *et al.*, 2008. Eight species of *Crocidura* are currently recorded from Vietnam (Abramov *et al.*, 2008; Can *et al.*, 2008). A further species of *Crocidura*, described herein, was found during the biodiversity surveys conducted by the Joint Vietnam – Russian Tropical Research and Technological Centre in southern Vietnam in 2007.

Information on the mammalian fauna of Cambodia is sparse and mainly confined to surveys of large mammals and Chiroptera (Desai & Vuthy, 1996; Timmins & Soriyun, 1998; Daltry & Momberg, 2000). Knowledge of the small mammals of the country is very limited. In 2006 Conservation International carried out a survey of the small mammals of the Virachey National Park in northeastern Cambodia and several specimens of *Crocidura* were found that closely matched the undescribed species from Vietnam. The description of this species is presented below.