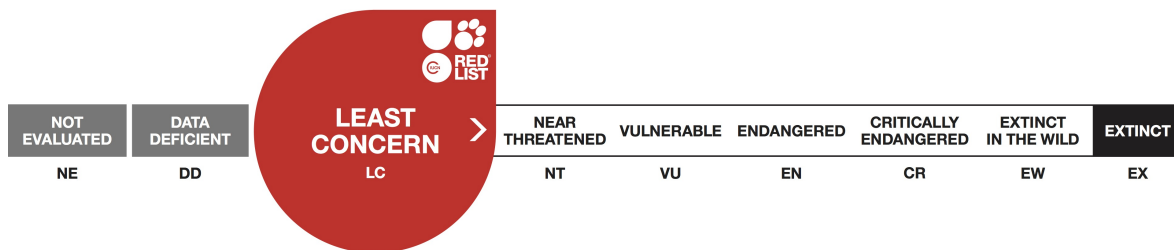


Crocidura suaveolens, Lesser Shrew

Assessment by: Palomo, L., Kryštufek, B., Amori, G. & Hutterer, R.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Eulipotyphla	Soricidae

Taxon Name: *Crocidura suaveolens* (Pallas, 1811)

Synonym(s):

- *Crocidura gueldenstaedtii* (Pallas, 1811)

Regional Assessments:

- [Europe](#)
- [Mediterranean](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Lesser Shrew, Lesser White-toothed Shrew
- French: Crocidure des Jardins
- Spanish: Musaraña de Campo

Taxonomic Notes:

Populations from eastern Asia (SE Siberia, E China, Korea, Taiwan) are now considered to be a separate species, *C. shantungensis*, whilst *C. gueldenstaedtii* is considered conspecific with *C. suaveolens*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2016

Date Assessed: June 10, 2016

Justification:

A widespread and common species throughout its range with no major threats hence is listed as Least Concern.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T29656A9510462.en>

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

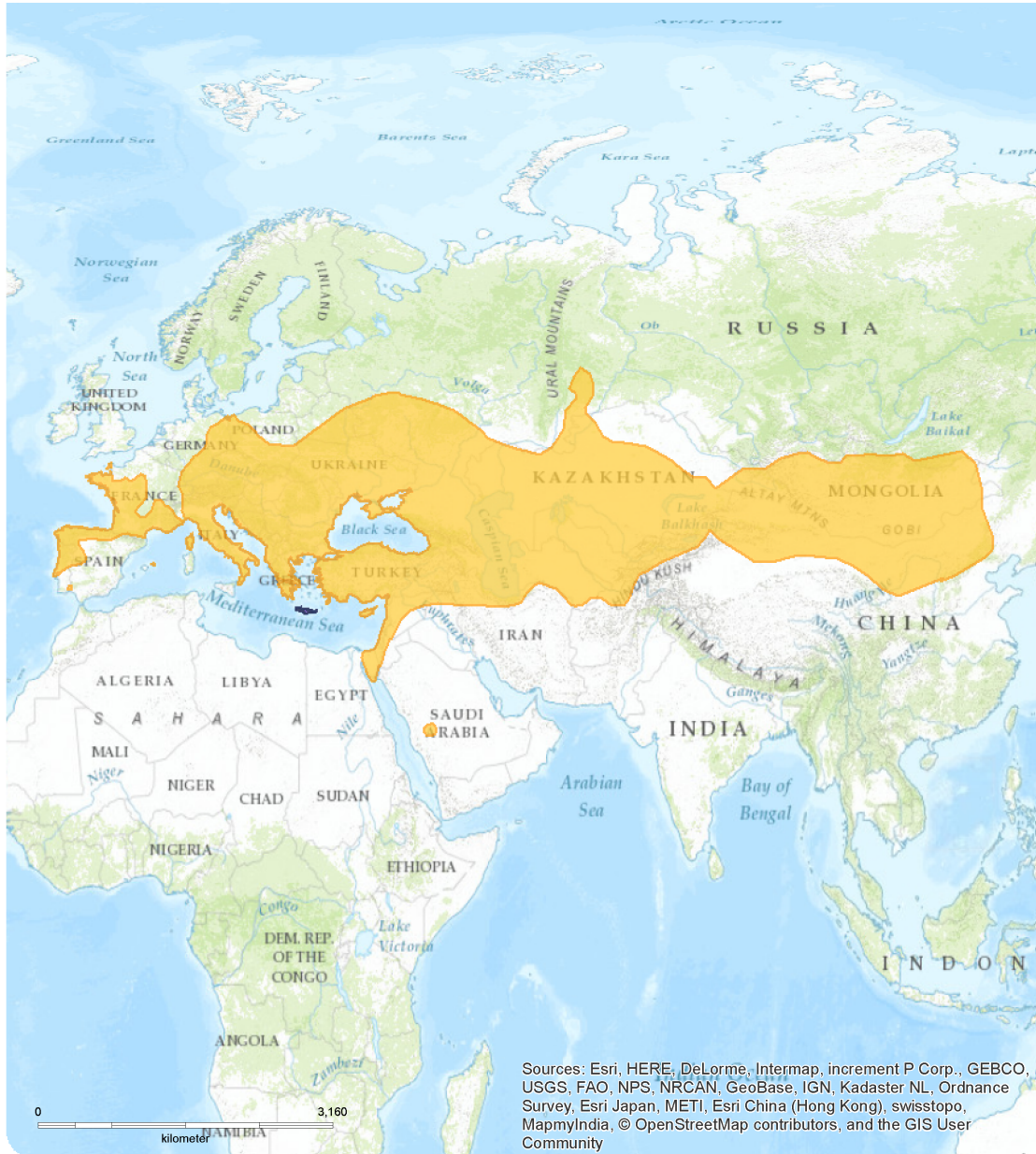
The Lesser White-toothed Shrew has a wide global distribution. It occurs in the Palearctic, extending from the Atlantic coast of Spain and probably Portugal (where its occurrence needs further confirmation) extending eastwards through Europe and Asia to Siberia. The southernmost edge of its distribution reaches Sinai (Egypt), Asia Minor, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran and China.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Albania; Algeria; Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; China; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Lebanon; Liechtenstein; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Morocco; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Serbia (Serbia); Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Distribution Map

Crocidura suaveolens

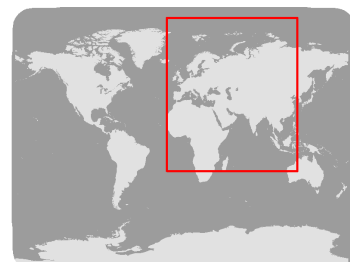


Crocidura suaveolens

Range

- Extant (resident)
- Introduced

Compiled by:
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

It is uncommon in the western part of its range, occurring at much lower densities than its congener *C. russula* (Libois *et al.* 1999). Further east it is more common. Described as abundant and ubiquitous in at least parts of its global range (Harrison and Bates 1991). In the steppe forest zone in Ukraine it is the most abundant shrew species, both in natural and agricultural habitats (I. Zagorodnyuk pers. comm. 2006).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

At higher latitudes and altitudes in Europe it is often associated with human habitation, tending to be found in parks, gardens, and even houses. It is very common in straw ricks. In western and southern Europe and it inhabits a wide range of habitats including vineyards, olive groves, terraced farmland on hillsides, dry Mediterranean shrubland, sand dunes, rocky areas in the mountains, and damp densely-vegetated patches near to water. It tends to avoid dense forests (Vlasák and Niethammer 1990, Libois *et al.* 1999). Small, soft-bodied insects form a major part of its diet (Vlasák and Niethammer 1990).

In southwest Asia it has been collected from habitats with long dry grasses; thick vegetation along streams, river edges and vegetation channels; around houses and in forested areas (Bates and Harrison 1989, Tez 2000). Its main requirement is enough vegetation and moisture to support its insect prey, and in arid areas it tends to be more common near springs and oases; however, it is more tolerant of dry conditions than many of its congeners (Qumsiyeh 1996).

The gestation period is 28 days and life expectancy one year; a female may have 10-12 litters, each with one to seven young, although usually four (Qumsiyeh 1996).

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats

It may be out-competed in some areas by *C. russula*. Pesticides and herbicides may have a negative impact on the species in agricultural habitats (Libois *et al.* 1999), but at present this does not seem to be a major threat.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Subspecies *C. s. canaeae*, endemic to Crete, is on Appendix II of the Bern Convention (as *C. ariadne*). It occurs in protected areas within its range. No specific conservation actions are recommended.

Credits

Assessor(s): Palomo, L., Kryštufek, B., Amori, G. & Hutterer, R.

Reviewer(s): Cassola, F.

Contributor(s): Mitsain, G. & Yigit, N.

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website](#).

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	-	Suitable	-
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	Suitable	-
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.3. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Sand Dunes	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	-	Suitable	-

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 27775964
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 1600
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 1

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