

SHREW

The shrew is a common name applied to certain small mouse-like mammals, related to the mole, with a long, pointed snout and soft, grey-brown velvety fur.

Some species are the smallest of all mammals. Most live on the ground, although a few species are semi aquatic.

Shrews are active, nocturnal animals that feed primarily on insects and worms, but also eat mice equal to their own size, as well as plants and occasionally fish. Many species have glands from which a fluid with a disagreeable odour is secreted, and some species have poisonous saliva.

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The Latin name for this shrew is *Sorex araneus*.

This shrew is very small with a body length of 6-8cm and a tail about half as long again. The coat is usually dark brown above and paler below, though it can be variable according to age and season.

It breeds from March-October, and may have 2 litters of up to 8 young, which leave the nest after about 24 days.

It feeds mainly on insects, worms and other invertebrates.

The Latin name for this shrew is *Sorex minutus*.

This shrew can grow up to 6cm in length, plus a tail of up to 6.8cm. It is rather mouse-like, but with a pointed snout and velvety fur.

It lives in the runs and burrows of other mammals, and is usually hidden by vegetation. It can be an aggressive creature that is frequently heard squeaking.

It has litters of 2-8 young, who are born in an underground nest. It usually has 2 litters a year between April and August.

