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Greater White-toothed shrew

Crocidura russula

Quick facts

Order Eulipotyphla

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*



GB trend *Stable*

Size Head to body length 60-90mm, tail 33-46mm.

Weight 11-14g

Life span 18 months; up to 2.5 years in captivity

The greater white-toothed shrew is a large shrew with a greyish-reddish brown upper/dorsal surface and a yellowish-grey underside. They have bright white teeth, prominent ears and a tail with long white hairs on it.

Habitat

In hedgerows, woodland, grassland, cultivated areas and woodland with a preference for human settlements and farm buildings in winter.

Behaviour

Semi-social mammals, this species are thought to share their nests. They are monogamous, and mated pairs are highly territorial and will guard territories together. Will build open saucer-shaped nests. Use a primitive form of echolocation to communicate, and can squeak when threatened. Exhibit female-biased dispersal, thought to prevent inbreeding. Predated by barn owls, stoats and domestic cats.

Diet & Feeding

Insectivorous. Feed on woodlice, snails, slugs and spiders and in the winter, caterpillars and earthworms. Occasionally eat small rodents, lizards and amphibians.

Reproduction

Litter size 2-10 mean normally 3. March - September. Females reach sexual maturity dependant upon weight gained. Can produce up to 4 litters per season.

Conservation & Threats

Found on islands such as Guernsey. Stable population as deemed least concern on IUCN Red List.

Range

Commonly found on islands including Guernsey, Alderney and Herm. Recently discovered in Sunderland, NE England.

Range

