



## Type specimens of “insectivoran” mammals at the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin

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## Abstract

The collection of the Zoological Museum of the Humboldt-University Berlin holds approximately 2,000 mammal type specimens. No catalogue has yet been published. Here, we present a type catalogue of the non-monophyletic group "Insectivora" containing the Erinaceidae (hedgehogs), Soricidae (shrews), Talpidae (moles), Solenodontidae (solenodons), and Chrysochloridae (golden moles). We checked the present nomenclatural and taxonomic status of each (referred) type specimen. We registered 33 holotypes, 69 syntypes and 13 paratypes (of which 17 represent subspecies and 3 are missing). We reidentified two original specimens of Küster's *Sorex pachyurus*, now *Crocidura pachyura*, which is a senior name for *Crocidura ichnusae*. Lectotypes are designated for *Solenodon cubanus*, *Sorex pachyurus*, and *Myosorex preussi*.

**Key words:** mammal types, insectivorans, golden moles, *Crocidura pachyura*, *Solenodon cubanus*, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, ZMB

## Introduction

The mammal collection of the Zoological Museum of the Humboldt-University Berlin (referred to as ZMB for "Zoologisches Museum Berlin") is one of the World's most important in terms of species diversity and number of types, which approaches 2,000 specimens. Unfortunately, a comprehensive type catalogue of these holdings has not yet been published. Our goal in this paper is to focus on a relatively small but historically important group of this collection: the "Insectivora". Of the approximately 450 currently-recognized species of mammals traditionally classified in this group, the largest repositories are in the Natural History Museum (London), the United States National Museum (Washington), and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris). The next-largest collections of "insectivoran" types are in Berlin (Table 1) and the American Museum of Natural History (New York).

As described elsewhere (e.g. Gregory 1910, Butler 1988, Nowak 1999), "Insectivora" as used throughout most of the 20th century comprised six extant families of placental mammals: the Erinaceidae (hedgehogs), Soricidae (shrews), Talpidae (moles), Solenodontidae (solenodons), Chrysochloridae (golden moles), and Tenrecidae (tenrecs). Over the past decade, it has become clear that this assemblage conflates members of two very different placental radiations: erinaceids, soricids, talpids, and solenodontids within the larger clade of Laurasiatheria (Waddell *et al.* 1999, Roca *et al.* 2004), and tenrecids and chrysochlorids as part of the Afrotheria (Stanhope *et al.* 1998).

Because nearly all zoological collections keep afrotherian and laurasiatherian lineages of insectivoran-grade mammals in close proximity to one another, both physically in storage and for record-keeping purposes, we discuss both groups in this paper. However we do not question their phylogenetic disparity, and recognize the validity of Afrotheria including tenrecs and golden moles (Murphy *et al.* 2001; Roca *et al.* 2004).

Statements on the status and valid name of taxa treated in this report principally refer to the last edition of Wilson & Reeder (2005), particularly on the chapters that include hedgehogs and soricomorphs (Hutterer 2005) and golden moles (Bronner & Jenkins 2005). Cases where we deviate from these sources are clearly stated. For suprafamilial taxonomy we follow Archibald (2003) and Asher (2005).