

Karyotype Characteristics of *Crocidura leucodon* Herman, 1780 and *Crocidura suaveolens* Pallas, 1811 (Mammalia: Insectivora: Soricidae) in Bulgaria

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Abstract: A karyotype characteristic of the bicoloured white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura leucodon* HERMAN, 1780) and lesser white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura suaveolens* PALLAS, 1811) from 6 sampling sites in Bulgaria was carried out. The standard karyotype of *Crocidura leucodon* was $2n=28$, $NFa=52$, $NF=56$. All autosomes were bi-armed, of which 3 pairs were metacentric, 5 pairs -submetacentric and 5 pairs – subtelo-centric. The X-chromosome was a middle size submetacentric. Variations in the morphology and size of the Y-chromosome were found. Subtelocentric, submetacentric, acrocentric, with size as the longer arm of the X-chromosome, and small acrocentric Y- chromosomes were described. The submetacentric form of the Y-chromosome is described for the first time in the species range. In the only male specimen from Srebarna studied an additional B- chromosome was determined. The diploid chromosome number of *C. suaveolens* was $2n=40$, $NFa=46$, $NF=50$. The autosomes were 15 pairs acrocentrics and 4 pairs bi – armed chromosomes: one pair metacentric, one pair submetacentric and two pairs subtelocentric chromosomes. The X-chromosome is a large submetacentric, in size between first and second autosome pairs, while the Y-chromosome is acrocentric, as large as the longer arm of the X-chromosome. The karyotype analysis illustrates the chromosome and genome polymorphism of *C. leucodon* and the relative stability of the *C. suaveolens* karyotype in Bulgarian populations.

Key words: karyotype, chromosomal polymorphism, *Crocidura* species