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8-21-1982

# Bristol, UK 1982 Field Notes

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## Recommended Citation

Yates, Terry. "Bristol, UK 1982 Field Notes." (1982). [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/msb\\_mammals\\_field\\_notes/192](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/msb_mammals_field_notes/192)

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Robert Baker and I left Helsinki one day earlier than planned and flew to London. There we rented a car from Hertz (about \$50/day + gas) and went to TWA to get our equipment, which was air freighted from Albuquerque (#323). The shipment (three footlockers) was in good shape & after 1 hour we got it with little trouble (no customs). We then made arrangements to obtain liquid nitrogen from a company in Bristol (BOC - Liquid N<sub>2</sub> Services) ~~and~~ and drove via M4 to Bristol about 2 hours west. We attempted to locate Cherry Salters' house: 21 Richmond Avenue, Montpellier (0272 422316) with no luck. We headed ~~west~~ <sup>east</sup> on the freeway and noticed a large field with many mole mounds near the town of Frenchay. After checking the place out we found a Crest hotel nearby. We decided to stay since it was near the area we needed to work & only cost \$50.00 per night. It was also rural.

After checking in we took a walk & met Alan Smith, 41 Eden Grove, Bristol BS7 0PP

Phone: 792714. He took us to the farm of Mr. Eendamore in Downend. This

in his 60's or 70's who ran a farm whose buildings were established in the 1800's. He had a few moles and gave us the run of the place.

21 August 1982 Bristol

We returned to the farm and set 5 live mole traps, ~~one~~ and four Japanese mole traps. The soil was somewhat dry even in the lettuce fields where digging was easy. The habitat is a mixture of grassy fields full of stinging nettle and forest with many rocky outcrops and old stone walls. A river of sorts borders the western edge of the farm. After setting the mole traps we journeyed a few km's west to some open pastures which were dotted with mole mounds. The soil was more sandy and moist here. A large castle which was used as a mental hospital was located to the north & we were told that the land was owned by the hospital. Being the weekend however we could not find anyone to give us permission so we set the remaining 6 live traps and some Japanese traps there.

We then returned to the Hotel and contacted Liquid N<sub>2</sub> services. The owner had a large van with a tank at his house so he brought it to the Hotel and try to give us N<sub>2</sub> for no charge. We insisted that he take enough money to buy some scotch anyway.

After changing clothes we returned to the farm and set 40 shermans in a variety of habitats there. Then back to the Hotel for dinner after running the mole traps with no luck. Dinners here are excellent but occur at a fixed price. The cost about 8 pounds each.

22 August, 1982, Bristol

Many of the mole traps had moles either burrow into the trap and stop at the trigger or refuse to enter the trap at all. We thus reset the traps with only slight packing under the trigger. The shermans produced 3 Sorex sp., 1 Microtus and six Apodemus. At 2 PM we caught our first Talpa europaea at the pasture. The would not enter the trap traps. We returned to the room + karyotyped the Microtus, 1 Apodemus

afternoon run of the traps produced no additional activity. We reset the stations at the farm.

23 August, 1982

We took another mole at the pasture grid 8 Sorex, 5 Microtus, and 5 Apodemus at the farm. We are still having difficulty getting the moles to enter the trap. We decided to try & interface the tunnel in the trap more with the moles tunnel. We stopped at a hardware store and purchased a new shovel and a round wooden rod about the diameter of a Talpa tunnel. ~~the~~ Efforts to bury formation failed. We then returned to the mole traps and reset them making a tunnel all the way thru with the wooden rod. In those cases where we knew which way the mole was coming from we only set one end of the trap and made the tunnel continuous with the rod. A dusk run of the traps showed one sprung but held open & the mole escaped.

pasture & reset the traps there. A light rain was falling. We returned to the hotel and met with Richard Brock of the BBC then processed the mole & a live shrew from the day before. (His home number is - 0275893187).

In a heavy rain we returned to the mole field to find one more Falco. As we were resetting traps Robert noticed a fresh mole working. As I was resetting a trap he yelled that he needed the shovel. After some discussion he replied that he had a mole trapped in its tunnel system. I responded with the shovel and began digging after the mole. We lost the mole several times but finally found it 3 feet down. It was digging ahead of us & plugging the burrow behind it as we went.

Before going to the mole field we injected the first one with an incredibly amount of yeast in the abdomen & on the back. We did the same to the new one.

The traps were negative.  
We returned to the room & obtained  
the best karyotype of the trip. We  
made two prints on the index from  
femurs & humeri's. We also processed  
the spleen. After paying \$600.00 for our  
room & food & liquor we were driven to London  
& air freighted two of the foot cultures  
home. We then stored our baggage,  
made arrangements for the liquid  
H<sub>2</sub>O and ~~stove~~ took the subway  
to Susan Stewart's parents' house  
for the night.

26 August, 1962. London & beyond