“Insectivores”

1. No more “Order Insectivora,” but several modern orders generally referred to under this category.

2. Afrotheria (originated in Africa)
   1. Order Macroscelidea
      Family Macroscelididae (elephant shrews)
   2. Order Afrosoricida
      Family Tenrecidae (tenrecs and otter shrews)
      Family Chrysochloridae (golden moles)

(Other Afrotheria include elephants, hyraxes, sirenians, and aardvark!)
“Insectivores”

3. Boreoeutheria include Orders that originated in the “northern” continents... basically everything else except xenarthurans, marsupials, and monotremes

1. Order Erinaceomorpha
   - Family Erinaceidae (hedgehogs and moon rats)

2. Order Soricomorpha
   - Family Talpidae (moles)
   - Family Soricidae (shrews)
   - Family Solenodontidae (solenodons)
   - Family Nesophontidae (nesophonts)
Insectivores: sharp, pointy teeth (some with venom!). Emphasize vertical snapping motion of jaws. (why?)
Order Macroscelidea

Family Macroscelididae (elephant shrews or sengis)

4 genera, 15 species

central, eastern, north Africa

eat mostly invertebrates, but some fruit and seeds

Elephantulus rufescens

Macroscelides proboscideus
Petrodromus pentadactylus

2 species we have in lab

Elephantulus rufescens
Order Afrosoricida

Family Tenrecidae (tenrecs and otter shrews)

10 genera, 30 sp

27 species of tenrecs restricted to Madagascar

wild variety of morphology, ecology, behavior, habitats
Order Afrosoricida

Family Tenrecidae (tenrecs and otter shrews)

Also in this family are the otter shrews: 1 genus (*Potamogale*) with 3 species

*Potamogale velox*

- west-central Africa
- semi-aquatic, resemble river otters
- largest gets to about 65 cm long
Order Afrosoricida

Family Chrysochloridae (golden moles)

9 genera, 21 species

solitary, burrowing, insectivorous

no tail, short limbs, eyes vestigial and fur-covered, no external ears, leathery pad on snout

metallic-looking fur, iridescent

southern Africa
Order Erinaceomorpha

Family Erinaceidae (hedgehogs and moon rats)

- Erinaceus europaeus
  - omnivorous, terrestrial, nocturnal
  - variety of habitats incl. urban, grassland, forest, deserts, montane regions

- 10 genera, 24 species
- Africa, Europe, Asia
- barbless spines, curl up for defense
Order Erinaceomorpha

Family Erinaceidae (hedgehogs and moonrats)

Moonrats and gymnures do not have spiny pelage. Pelage can be long and soft in the Philippines gymnure, to coarse in moonrats. Omnivorous, live in wetlands and humid forest.
Order Soricomorpha

Families Solenodontidae and Nesophontidae
(solenodons, nesophonts)

Solenodon cubanus

Solenodons (1 genus, 4 species but 2 probably living) occur in Cuba, Haiti, and Dominican Republic. Nesophonts were also Caribbean, but now extinct (last track seen in 1930).
Order Soricomorpha

Family Talpidae (moles)

Condylura cristata

Scalopus aquaticus

Desmana moschata
Order Soricomorpha

Family Talpidae (moles)

17 genera, 42 species

Europe, northern Asia, Japan, N. Am. (except Rockies)

fossorial, except for semiaquatic *Desmana* and terrestrial shrew moles (*Neurotrichus, Urotrichus, Uropsis*); star-nosed mole also is semiaquatic

diet is mostly earthworms, beetle and fly larvae, other invertebrates; desmans also eat fish, amphibians; live up to 4 years

*Neurotrichus gibbsii*
Order Soricomorpha
Family Soricidae (shrews)

Sorex
Neomys fodiens
Suncus etruscus
Crocidura
26 genera, 376 species, but pretty similar body form and general habits among them from smallest (about 2-3 g, *Suncus etruscus*) to largest (about 100 g, *Suncus murinus*)

terrestrial, insectivorous; *Sorex palustris* (western US), *Nectogale elegans* (China), and genus *Neomys* (Europe) are semiaquatic

2 subfamilies: Soricinae (red-toothed shrews) and Crocidurinae (white-toothed shrews)

occur most places except Australia, most of S. America, polar regions, and dry parts of Africa, most true deserts

*Ha ha! Those silly students think they can ID us!*