

Defines to Identify the Content of Pellets

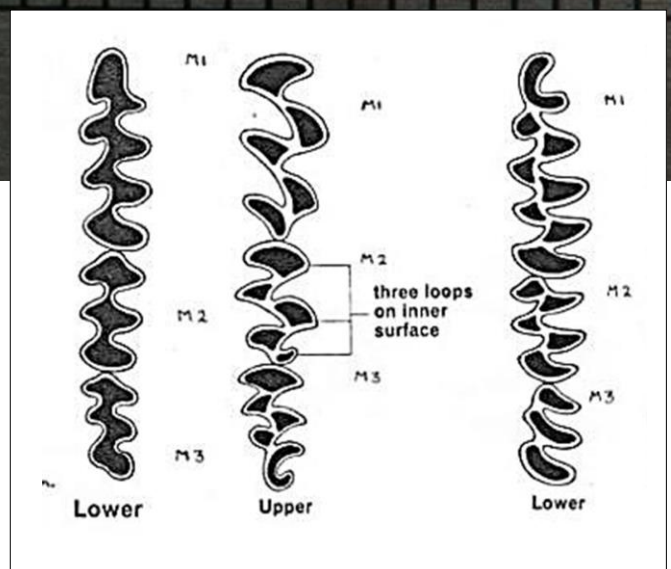
Prepared by: Ori Peleg

By defining this, we will present the most common species found in the contents of Barn Owl pellets. The identification of these species is done by examining their teeth. Different species have unique tooth structures, which is why we focused on this method of identification. The structure of the teeth in the lower jaw (mandible) is similar to the structure of the teeth in the upper jaw (maxilla), so it does not matter which jaw you examine; the tooth structure in either jaw will be sufficient for diagnosis.

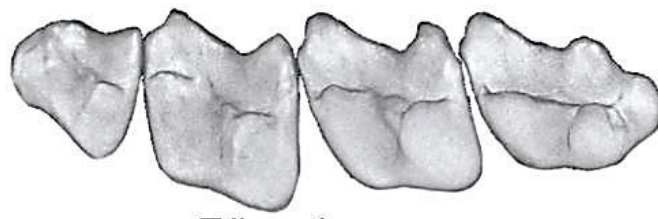
Social Vole (*Microtus socialis*)



The teeth appear continuous in a "zigzag" shape.



House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)



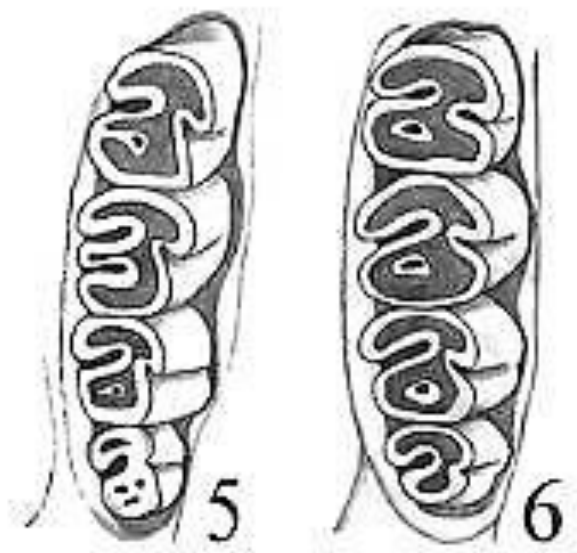
The teeth are distinct and resemble the shape of human teeth.

House Rat (*Rattus rattus*)



The teeth are similar to mouse teeth but larger in size, as is the jaw itself.

subterranean mole-rats (*Spalax Sp.*)

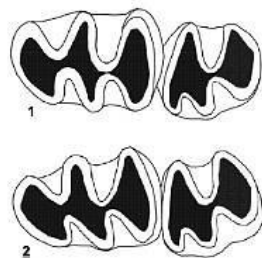


The teeth have a unique, S-shaped structure.

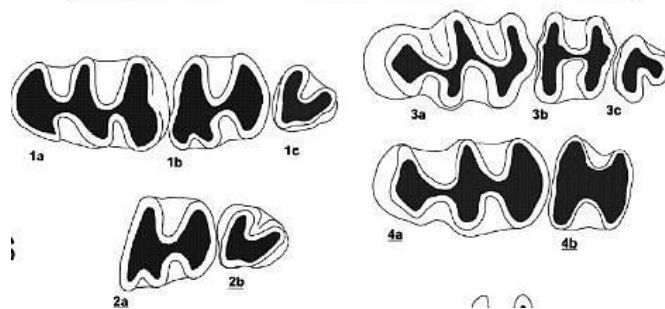
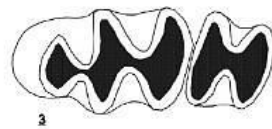
Tristram's Jird (*Meriones tristrami*)



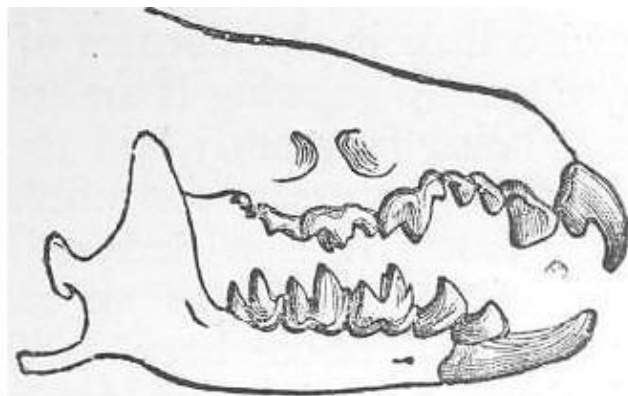
lower molars



upper molars



Greater white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura russula*)



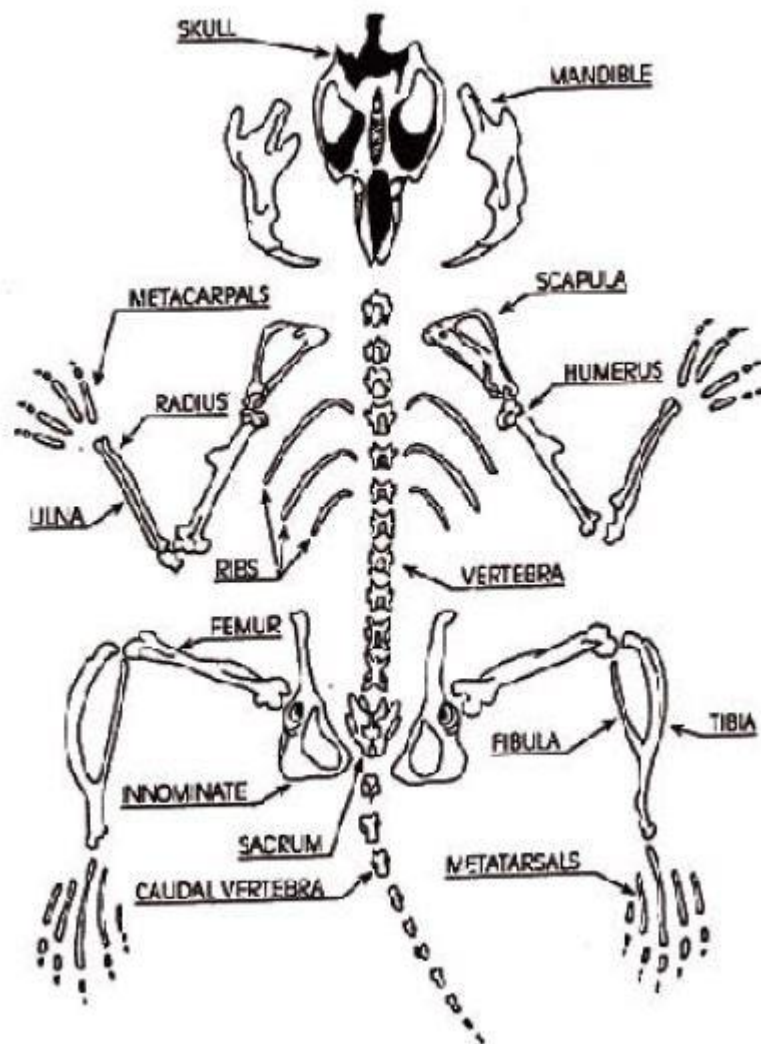
The shrew is a predator, so its teeth are serrated, unlike rodents, which are not predators.

Birds



Skull and bones typical of birds

Identification of skeletal bones in rodents



Social Vole (*Microtus socialis*)



House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)



House Rat (*Rattus rattus*)



subterranean mole-rats (*Spalax*)



Tristram's Jird (*Meriones tristrami*)



Shrew (*Crocidura russula*)

