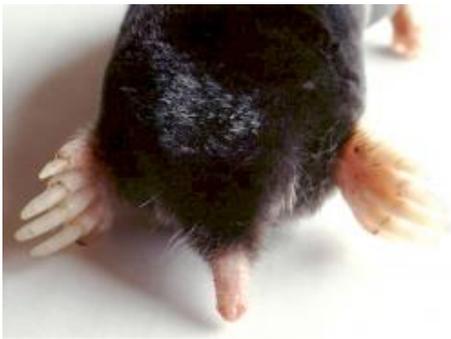


Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

Townsend's Mole

Scapanus townsendii

A member of the family Talpidae (“moles, shrew moles”). The largest mole in North America, it is one of two species in the genus *Scapanus* in BC, the other being the more common Coast Mole. Moles are generally distinguished by their fossorial (sub-surface) nature and much maligned for the complex tunnel networks they generate in agricultural and landscaped areas.



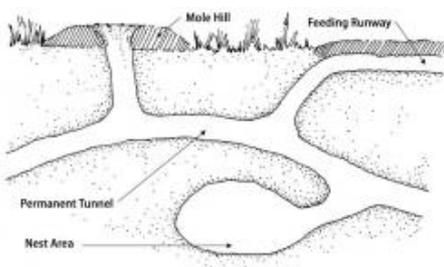
Adult American Society of
Mammologists



Adult Richard Forbes



Fraser Valley Lowlands BC Ministry
of Agriculture



Mole runway system Jennifer Reese



Adult wednet.edu

Characteristics

Length: 17.9-23.7 cm Tail: 3.5-5.5 cm Weight: males 142 g; females 119 g. The body is stocky and cylindrical with flat, paddle-shaped front feet with five strong, straight claws used for digging. The feet, tail and snout are pink or whitish and almost hairless except for the vibrissae (whiskers) which are used instead of visual cues for navigation and foraging. The pads or palms on the front feet face outwards. The fur is characteristically short, with a soft velvety or silky texture. Colour is dark grey to black with a pronounced sheen. Most moles are not truly blind, but as a genus that spends much of its time digging underground through soil the tiny eyes and small ears are hidden and protected by fur.

Status

Global Status:	G5
Provincial Status:	S1
SARA Status:	Endangered
BC List Status:	Red (Candidates for- Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status)

Resources

[Living with Wildlife - Moles, Washington Department of Wildlife](#)

[Factors influencing molehill distribution in grasslands](#)

For further information see

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

[British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern](#)

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/townsend-mole>

Links

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/116>

[2] <http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/moles-WDFW.pdf>

[3] <http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/factors%20influencing%20moelhill%20distribution%20in%20grassland%20implications%20for%20controlling%20m>

<http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/factors%20influencing%20moelhill%20distribution%20in%20grassland%20implications%20for%20controlling%20m>

[4] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[5] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[6] http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

[7] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>