

# Learning in the Leaves

## Identification- *Sorex araneus* – Common Shrew



Photo: Common Shrew by G. Bradley

[www.uksafari.com](http://www.uksafari.com)

### Distinguishing Features

- The Common Shrew has three-toned fur. On the back and head it is dark brown. On the sides it's a lighter orange-brown. The belly fur is beige. The tips of the teeth are red and the tail is at least half the length of the body, and thicker than the legs.

### Interesting Facts

- Common shrews breed between April and August. They can have several litters of up to seven young in their short lifetime.
- Their constant search for food makes them extremely active animals. They need to eat every couple of hours in order to maintain their body temperature. Sleep and rest periods last for less than an hour before resuming the hunt for food.
- [information collated from the UK Safari Website: [www.uksafari.com](http://www.uksafari.com) ]