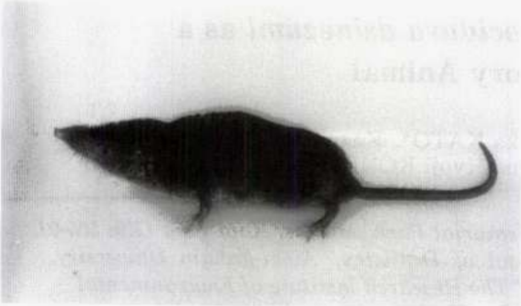

Fig. 1. Adult male of *Crocidura dsinezumi*

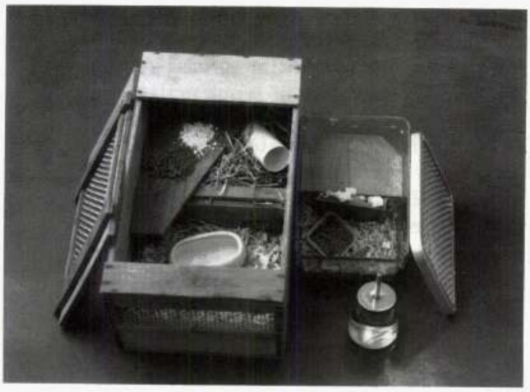

Fig. 2. The two types of cage 1 : the hand made wooden cage (left) 2 : the adapted plastic mouse cage (right)

Table 1. Capture of the dsinezumi shrew in Japan

Date	Area	Sex	Memorandum
8-Feb-84	1	♂	
18-Feb-84	1	♀	
24-May-84	1	♂	alive
22-Sep-84	2	♀	
2-Nov-84	1	♂	
19-Aug-85	3	♀	alive-pregnancy
15-Nov-85	1	♂	
23-Aug-86	3	♀	alive-pregnancy
24-Aug-86	3	♂	alive
5-Apr-87	2	♀	alive
8-Aug-87	3	♂	
19-Sep-89	4	♂	alive

Area 1 ; Mitake, Gifu (continually) 2 ; Seto Aichi (continually) 3 ; Sitara, Aichi (summer) 4 ; Nyuzen, Toyama (summer)

has recently been initiated to domesticate as a laboratory animal [3]. But *Crocidura dsinezumi* (Fig. 1), the most common shrew which is widespread in the low mountains and plains of Japan [6] has not yet been studied systematically. We have been domesticating the shrew *C. dsinezumi* since 1984, to increase our knowledge of the comparative biology of this *Insectivore*. In this paper we describe thesteps taken to domesticate *Crocidura dsinezumi*, and report on the biological data obtained in captivity.

Materials and Methods

Capture : Sherman's live traps were used for catching animals with dry cat food, oat meal and/or sausage as a bait. These traps were set in the forests, grass fields and storage houses in Aichi, Gifu and Toyama prefectures, central Japan, between 1984 and 1989. Captured animals were placed in wooden cages containing soil and hey, given water immediately. Three males and three females were transported to the laboratory in good condition (Table 1). Two females were pregnant when captured, and they subsequently delivered successfully in the wooden cages. Their progeny, four males and one female were weaned in good condition. Therefore, our present shrew colony is originating from wild populations in the above three areas in Japan.

Husbandry and management : Recently captured animals were kept in wooden cages (W × D × H ; 25 × 42 × 18cm) with a soil and sawdust base. Chopped hay and paper tubes were added for concealment and nesting material (Fig. 2). These cages were placed inside a building with natural light, humidity and temperature conditions. Dry pelleted food designed for feeding musk shrews (Central Institute for Experimental Animals, Kawasaki, Japan), commercial cat food (Nippon Pet Food KK, Tokyo, Japan), oat meal, silk worm powder and water on a dish were provided daily. The six captured animals were kept in these conditions for 3, 7, 9, 16, 16 and 20 months respectively. After successful breeding and maintenance of the colony for 4～5 generations in captivity, the animals were transferred to plastic cages with a lattice wire lid constructed for mice (W × D × H ; 15 × 22 × 12cm) with a sawdust base. Inside these cages there