
Taxonomy-Genetics

New rodent species described since 2000; an age of discovery, comments and prospects

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In this contribution I present a review on the new living rodent species described since 2000. The most relevant issue to emphasize is that we are in an age of discovery. An average of ca. 14 new rodent species were described each year. Since 2000, over 250 new species have been described on the basis of specimens collected in South America, Asia, Africa, Oceania, North America, and Europe. The new rodent species belong to 21 families; most of them are allocated to the families *Muridae* and *Cricetidae*, but also to less diverse families as *Platacanthomyidae* and *Sminthidae*, as well as to the until then considered extinct *Diatomyidae*. Most discoveries were prompted by the analysis of genetic variation, although several new species have been hypothesized exclusively on the basis of morphological variation. Even when most taxonomic studies are based on one locus or few loci, we are starting a transition to an era where (sub)genomic data is analyzed with a coalescent approach. After commenting on distinct particularities of the new species, it is concluded that field collection of specimens and collections-based research needs to be intensified to characterize rodent diversity. Financial support: FONDECYT 1141055 and 1180366.

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6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

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Book of Abstracts



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