

Handbook of mammals of the world, Vol 7.

The first thing that struck me is the poor quality of color plates. Many of them show dozens of cypasted and minimally edited images (you can see exactly the same brush strokes), and completely ignore the differences between species, even those mentioned in the text. Here's what I mean:

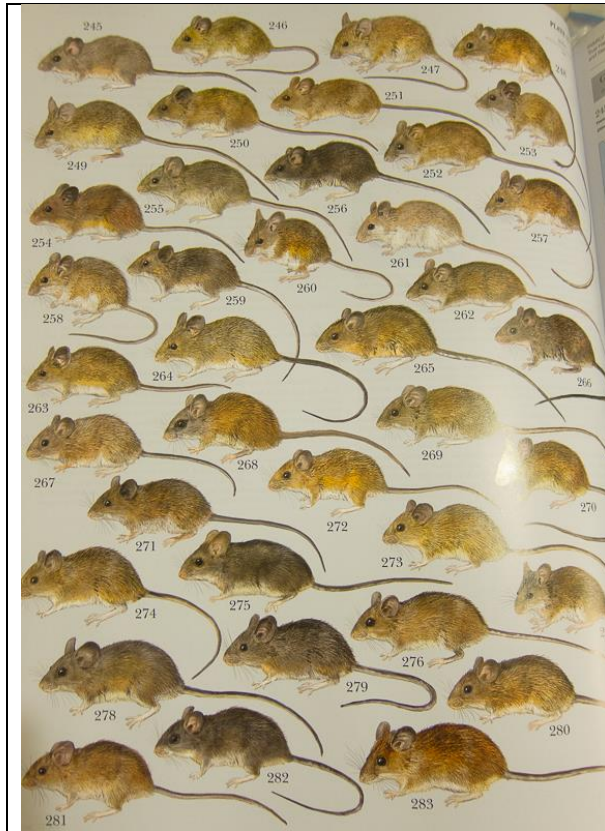


Plate 17, one of *Peromyscus* plates. #271 is supposed to be *P. mayensis*, and #283 *P. grandis*. Both look like copies of *P. maniculatus*.



This is what *P. grandis* really looks like: a black, shrew-like predator.



And this is *P. mayensis*.

These photos are online and come up in Google searches. There are excellent paintings (made from live animals) in Fiona Reid's book. Why did the illustrator ignore them?

Turns out, all 1600+ species were painted by just one artist. This is an impossible task, and it's no wonder that he had to cut corners. Some plates are of passable quality, but only in the first half. This is really unfortunate, not only because it totally undermines the usefulness of the book, but also because it further propagates the myth that almost all rodents can't be reliably identified in the field.

Amusingly, there is a full-body illustration of *Euneomys fossor*, which is known from just one skull. But who cares, all those rodents look the same, don't they?

Now, the text. Traditionally for HMW, it suffers from lack of technical editing; the number of typos and repeats is not as disastrous as in some earlier volumes, but still high and there are some funny ones (*Bunomys torajae* is said to be a sister species of itself). Many range maps were copied from IUCN website without even looking at them; the map for *Rattus norvegicus* doesn't include China. Another HMW's tradition is taxonomic inflation; some species and genera are listed as such even though their species accounts explain that they should be lumped with others. Again, it is not nearly as bad as in some

earlier volumes. Some family chapters do the opposite: they list likely splits in the same species account. I'll go over the differences with IUCN list, and mention a few other useful things.

As a side note, mammologists totally suck at inventing common names. Almost all recently invented common names of small mammals are boring, unimaginative, and/or ridiculously long. Among the worst abominations are Colombian West Andes Cloud Forest Mouse for *Handleyomys fuscatus*, Colombian Central Andes Cloud Forest Mouse for *H. intectus* (why not just call them Cauca Mouse and Los Nevados Mouse?), and, of course, West-Central South African Four-striped Grass Rat for *Rhabdomys bechuanae* (why not Kalahari Striped Mouse?) The name for huge Andean genus *Thomasomys* is chosen as "Oldfield mice" after Thomas Oldfield, even though there is a North American *Peromyscus* with the same common name. BTW, I hate the trend of calling all *Peromyscus* "deermice": the name "deer mouse" was originally given to *P. maniculatus* because its fur color resembles that of white-tailed deer, but most other species are, of course, differently colored, so it's a stupid and meaningless name for the genus. I'm tired of all this, and am switching back to scientific names in my trip reports.

Sminthidae. The book was printed too early to fully reflect the recent split of *Sicista zhetysuica* from *S. tianshanica* (Cserkés et al. 2017). "*S. nordmanni*" is correctly listed as *S. loriger*.

Dipodidae. *Allactaga* is split into three genera. The recently described *Allactaga/Paralactaga* (now *Scarturus*) *toussi* is listed as a subspecies of *S. vinogradovi*. Taxon *caprimulgus* of Afghanistan is listed as a subspecies of *S. euphraticus* rather than *S. williamsi*; the latter includes an undescribed species in NE Iran. *S. aulacoti* of Syria and vicinity is listed as separate from *S. williamsi*. *S. elater* is a species complex yet to be sorted out; pay particular attention to those in the southern half of the range. *Dipus sagitta* is also a complex (ssp. *deasyi* of Qaidam is the most likely split, as I've read elsewhere). *Stylodipus sungorus* is split from *S. telum*. *Jaculus loftusi* is split from *J. jaculus*; it is the only jerboa in UAE, Yemen, and much of Saudi Arabia.

Platacanthomyidae. Four species of *Typhlomys* are listed (*chapensis*, *cinereus*, *daloushanensis*, and *nanus*).

Spalacidae. *Myospalax armandii* and *M. epsilon* are split from *M. psilurus*; the maps show them as partially sympatric. *Eospalax cansus*, *E. rufescens*, and *E. baileyi* are split from *E. fontanierii*; the ones around Lake Qinghai are now *E. bayleyi*, while in Foping there are *E. rufescens* and possibly *E. rothschildi*. *Spalax isticus* and *S. antiquus* are split from *S. graecus*; the split is based on mtDNA and very minor morphological differences, so I'm not totally convinced. It is mentioned in species accounts that *Neospalax xanthodon* should be split into three species, and *N. ehrenbergi* into at least seven, including four in Israel and Palestine.

Nesomyidae. *Beamys major* (a common forest rodent of Malawi) is split from *B. hindei* (now restricted to coastal Kenya and Tanzania). Everybody's beloved genus *Cricetomys* is listed as including 4 species, although in the species accounts it's acknowledged that *C. kivuensis* is not a real species. The recent finding (also by Happold in press. according to IUCN) that *C. ansorgei* isn't a full species, either, is not mentioned. *Megadendromus* is still listed as a separate genus despite the recent finding (mentioned in the species account) that it is part of *Dendromus*. *D. melanotis* of West Africa (except Nigeria) is now *D. lachasei*. *D. rупpi* of Sudan is listed as full species, but is likely conspecific with *D. mystacalis*. *D. mesomelas* does not occur in East Africa; all records have been re-assigned to other species.

Cricetinae. *Cricetulus* is mentioned to be paraphyletic. *Cricetulus lama* is considered a synonym of *C. kamensis*.

Arvicolinae. *Lemmus flavescens* of Kamchatka is listed as a subspecies of *L. amurensis* rather than *L. sibiricus*. Red-backed voles are split into two genera (*Craseomys* for *M. rufocanus* and 5 Far Eastern spp., *Myodes* for others) because one study found the genus to be paraphyletic in respect to *Alticola*, but experts in the field have told me that it is premature and shouldn't be taken seriously. *A. macrotis* transferred to *Myodes*. *A. argentatus* is paraphyletic vs. *A. albicauda* and is due for splitting. *A. olkhonensis*, endemic to a delightful island on Lake Baikal, is recognized as full species. *A. lemminus* moved to a separate genus (*Aschizomys*). *Eothenomys eva* and *E. inez* split into *Caryomys*. *E. mucronatus* is listed as *E. miletus*, with a few populations moved to this species from *E. melanogaster*. *E. hintoni* split from *E. custos*, *E. tarquinius* from *E. chinensis*.

Arvicola is listed as containing 4 species: *A. sapidus* (France, Spain and Portugal), *A. amphibius* (syn. *terrestris* and *sherman*) from Britain to Siberia, *A. monticola* only in western Alps, Pyrenees and northern Spain, and *A. italicus* in Italy. *Microtus sensu lato* is split into *Chionomys*, *Volemys*, *Proedromys*, *Lasiopodomys*, *Neodon*, *Alexandromys* (which includes most species of NE Asia, incl. *oeconomus*), and *Microtus* (which still includes a lot of Palearctic species, plus all American ones except *oeconomus*). *Chionomys lasistanius* of Turkey and Lesser Caucasus is split from *C. gud* of Greater Caucasus (based on mtDNA, but there are also phenotypic differences). *Lasiopodomys raddei* of SE Transbaikalia is split from *L. gregalis*. Four new species added to *Neodon*: *N. linzhiensis*, *N. medogensis*, *N. nyalamensis*, and *N. forresti*. All except the latter have small ranges in far S Tibet. *Alexandromys gromovi* of the mainland Sea of Okhotsk coast is split from *A. middendorffii*; it might end up being called *A. shantaricus*. *A. limnophilus* is still listed as one species although recent evidence (mentioned in the text) clearly indicates that Mongolian ssp. *malygini* should be split.

Microtus lavrenedii (N Spain, S France, E Alps to NE Serbia) and *M. rozianus* (Portugal) split from *M. agrestis*. *M. breweri* is still listed as a full species, even though there's overwhelming evidence that it is just another island subspecies of *M. pennsylvanicus*. Form *madrensis* of Chihuahua is still listed as a subspecies of *M. mexicanus*, even though it is genetically closer to *M. mogollonensis*. *M. fingeri* of Turkey might be a separate species from *M. subterraneus*. *M. liechtensteini* includes *bavaricus* as synonym; all other recent splits among the "pine voles" are recognized, including *M. brachycercus* of S Italy and *M. nebrodiensis* of Sicily; the total is now 13 and there's another one coming as ssp. *atticus* of Athens area will likely be split from *M. thomasi*. *M. hartingi* (SE Balkans & W Turkey), *M. dogramacii* (C Turkey & Iran), and *M. mustersi* (Cyrenaica) are split from *M. guentheri* (SE Turkey to N Negev). *Microtus paradoxus* of Kopetdag is recognized as separate from *socialis*, but on insufficient evidence in my opinion. *M. schidlovskii* is listed as a subspecies of *M. iranii*; *M. gazvinensis* as a subspecies of *M. dogramacii*. The recently described *M. elbeyli* from SC Turkey is mentioned only in the text. *Microtus arvalis* is split into two species, with populations east from the line Dniepr Delta-Upper Volga Valley (very approximately) called *M. obscurus*. The previous eastern split from *M. arvalis* is called *M. mystacinus* rather than *M. levis* or *M. rossiameridionalis*.

In case you lost count, Sichuan and Yunnan now have 22 vole species. I am really happy I paid so much attention to voles while travelling around the Palearctic, because now I can just sit back and watch my life list grow.

Neotominae. A few *Neotoma* forms split: *N. melanura* (S Sonora, N Sinaloa) from *N. albigula*; *N. ferruginea* (Oaxaca to Guatemala, plus Honduras if it also includes *N. m. solitaria* which is almost certain) and *N. picta* from *N. mexicana*; *N. bryanti* (formerly *N. intermedia*, coastal S California and all of Baja) from *N. lepida*. *N. bryanti* includes all insular Sea of Cortez endemics except *N. insularis* and *N. bunkeri* (which are likely extinct).

Podomys, *Onychomys*, *Megadontomys* and *Habromys* are still listed as separate genera despite mounting evidence that they are all nested within *Peromyscus* (which, in my opinion, should be split). South American *Reithrodontomys* are still listed under *R. mexicanus*, although the text mentions that they belong to *R. darienensis*. *R. cherii*, *R. garichensis*, *R. bakeri*, and *R. musseri* are all recognized as valid species. Many island *Peromyscus* from Baja are either still listed as species despite molecular evidence to the contrary, or listed as subspecies of *P. eremicus* while they almost certainly belong to *P. fraterculus*. *P.*

mekisturus is listed as a species despite recent evidence that it's a subspecies of *P. melanophrys*. *P. tropicalis* is split from *P. guatemalensis*; I think the ones occurring at Grutas de Lonquin in Guatemala are this species. *P. nudipes*, *P. gymnotis*, *P. nicaraguae*, and *P. salvadorensis* are split from *P. mexicanus*, which now only occurs as far SE as Volcan Tacana in Guatemala. Guatemalan population of *P. zarhynchus* is split as *P. gardneri*; this form is common in pine forests of Sierra de los Cuchumatanes (a really nice place with six species of *Peromyscus* and lots of other interesting mammals – highly recommended). A new species *P. carletoni* was described in 2014 from EC Nayarit; it looks pretty much identical to allopatric *P. boylii* and *P. schmidlyi*. *P. levipes* from Michoacan are split as *P. kilpatricki*. *P. aztecus* is split into three species: *oaxacensis* from Oaxaca to Honduras, *hylocetes* from Colima to Mexico City, and *aztecus* limited to Sierra Madre Oriental (where people have always hated the Aztecs). All questionable species of *Habromys* are listed as valid; the recently (2017) proposed splitting of *H. villai* (Oaxaca) from *H. simulatus* (Hidalgo & Veracruz) is mentioned in the text and brings the total number of species to eight. All those splits added 17 species to my life list if uncertain IDs are included.

Sigmodontinae. *Neusticomys vossi* (E slope of the Andes) is split from *N. monticolus* (W slope); look for it at the cock-of-the-rock site near Volcan Reventador, Ecuador (I forgot the name of the village). The text mentions that *Rheomys mexicanus* of Oaxaca might be a subspecies of *R. underwoodi* of Costa Rica and Panama. *Juliomys* now contains 4 largely sympatric species; the new ones are *J. ossitenius* and *J. ximenezi*. *Abrawayomys chebezi* still listed as a full species, even though it's been shown to be conspecific with *A. ruschii*. *Delomys collinus* is synonymized with *D. dorsalis*, while a new species *D. altimontanus* is added; it occurs in Itatiaia NP above 2000 m.

Reithrodon caurinus has been recently described from NW Argentina. *Nephelomys maculiventer* is still listed, despite being recently found to be a subspecies of *N. meridensis*. The recently (2017) split *Oecomys tapajinus* (from SE part of the range of *O. roberti*) isn't mentioned, but *O. syndandersoni* from Noel Kempff Mercado is. Turns out the rice rat I caught in 2010 in Varzeas do Riovinhelma in Mato Grosso Sul was the recently described *O. fransiscorum* (I gave the directions to the site here once as it's a good place for grizons). *Handleyomys guerrerensis* (S Sierra Madre) is split from *H. chapmani* (E S. M.). *Oligoryzomys costaricensis* (NW Nicaragua to Panama), *O. delicatus* (Colombia to Trinidad; probably a species complex), and *O. messorius* (Puerto Ayacucho to Macapa) are split from *O. fulvescens* (Mexico to NW Nicaragua). *O. utiaritensis* (apparently the dull-colored form common in the Pantanal, where bright-colored *O. matogrossae* is also common) is split from *O. nigripes* (E Brazil to lower Parana). *O. delticola* and *O. eliurus* are apparently subsumed into *O. nigripes*. *Neacomys amoenas* (W and S Amazon Basin) and *N. vargasillosai* (Puno to NW Bolivia; apparently this is the species common along La Paz-Coroico Rd.) are split from *N. spinosus* (now restricted to a small part of Peru – look for it in Kuelap ruins). *Eremoryzomys* now includes a second species, the recently (2016) described *E. mesocaudis* from Copallin, Peru. *Holochilus venezuelae* (Venezuela except the south) is split from *H. sciureus* (Amazon Basin and N Brazil); *H. vulpinus* (NE Argentina to Iguazu area) from *H. brasiliensis* (SE Brazil); there's also a new species *H. lagigliai* described in 2013 from central-W Argentina, but it might be already extinct.

Cerradomys is said to include 8 spp., all from Brazil; new ones are *C. langguthi*, *C. akroai*, *C. vivoi*, and *C. goytaca*, but I looked at the primary literature and see insufficient grounds for splitting the latter two from *C. subflavus*. *Oryzomys texensis* (Rio Grande to Mississippi) is split from *O. palustris*; *O. albiventer* (Mesa de Anahuac) – from *O. couesi*. *Aegialomys baroni* (SW Ecuador and NW Peru) and *A. ica* (most of Peru coast) split from *A. xanthaeolus*. *Sigmodonthomys* and *Tanyuromys* are still listed as separate genera despite molecular evidence of them nested within *Melanomys*. *Melanomys chrysomelas* (Honduras to Costa Rica), *M. idoneus* (Panama), and *M. columbianus* (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta east to Catatumbo) are split from *M. caliginosus* (Colombia to Ecuador). A new species is added to *Scapteromys*: *S. meridionalis*, described in 2014 with errors in location info, now said to occur from S Parana State to Rio Grande do Sul.

Kunsia planaltensis (Mato Grosso & DF) is split from apparently extinct *K. fronto*, and both species are moved to a separate genus *Gyldenstolpia*, which in my opinion is senseless taxonomic inflation.

Numerous species of *Brucepattersonius* synonymized into just three: *B. griserufescens* in coastal mountains N of Rio, *B. soricinus* on the coast S from Rio, and *B. iheringi* in the area between the coast and the E side of Iguazu Falls. *Oxymycterus rosellatus*, *O. hispidus*, *O. roberti*, and *O. angularis* are synonymized with *O. dosytrichos*, while *O. juliacae* (Puno and adjacent Bolivia) is split from *O. inca*, and *O. wayku* (Tucuman) from *O. rufus*. *Necomys benefactus* and *N. temchuki* are not mentioned (probably synonymized with *N. lasiurus*). *N. lilloi*, described in 2016 from Tucuman, is recognized as distinct from *N. lactens*, although in my opinion the evidence was too weak. *Deltamys araucaria*, described from Rio Grande do Sul in 2017, is given a new type locality because the original description was all messed up. *Acodon serrensis* is moved to a new genus and called *Castoria angustidens*. *A. josemariarguardasi* and *A. kotosh* (both from S Huanuco) are split from *A. orophilus*. *A. caenosus* from Argentina is split from *A. lutescens* from Bolivia; I think it's the smaller of the two spp. common in Los Cardones NP. *A. reigi* and *A. paranaensis* are still listed as distinct from *A. mystax*, even though they are almost certainly not. *A. polopi* was described in 2016 from Cordoba.

Chilomys fumeus (Andes of Venezuela and adjacent Colombia) is split from *C. instans*. *Rhipidomys similis* from southern Cauca is split from smaller and more northern *R. caucensis*. *R. tenuicauda* is recognized as separate from *R. fulviventer*; the range is given as *Serrania de Turimiquire* but I'm pretty sure I caught it in Caripe back in 1995. *R. albuja* has been described from *Sangai NP* in 2017. *R. ipukensis*, described from Tocantis in 2011, is still listed, even though it's almost certainly just a subspecies of *R. emiliae*. *R. tribei* (Minas Gerais and Espiritu Santo, common around Caraca Monastery) and *R. itoan* (from Rio area south) are split from *R. mastacalis* (Paraiba to N Rio de Janeiro). *Thomasomys emeritus* (Venezuelan Andes, common above Merida) is listed as separate from *T. laniger*, *T. nicefori* (Antioquia) and *T. princeps* (Bogota area) – from *T. aureus* (without sufficient justification, in my opinion), *T. auricularis* (Ecuador), *T. contradictus* and *T. dispar* (both Colombia) – from *T. pyrrhonotus* (Peru), *T. fumeus* (Ecuador, one of the bunch of forms you can catch at Papallacta Pass) – from parapatric *T. silvestris*, *T. australis* (Cochabamba) – from *T. daphne* (farther N), *T. andersoni* (also Cochabamba) – from *T. ladewi* (La Paz).

The enigmatic *Euenomys fossor*, known from one skull collected in Salta before 1925, is listed as valid and extant, which is a bit weird. *Geoxus* from southern Patagonia are listed as *G. michaelseni* rather than *G. delfini*. *Abrothrix hirta* is listed as separate from *A. longipilis* (now restricted to Coquimbo – look for it in Fray Jorge NP); while *A. manni* (Puerto Montt, N Chiloe I. etc.) is split from *A. sanborni* (now restricted to S Chiloe and Aysen). *A. llanoi* and *A. hershkovitzi* are synonymized with *A. xanthorhina*.

New genus and species *Calassomys apicalis* were described in 2014 from Sempere Vivas NP. *Calomys sorella* is split into 5 species, north to south: *C. sorella*, *C. miurus*, *C. chinchilico*, *C. frida*, *C. achaku*. *C. cerqueirai* was described in 2010 from Minas Gerais. *Eligmodontia hirtipes* (from Lauca NP north) is split from *E. puerulus*. *E. bolsonensis* was described in 2008 from Catamarca, *E. dunaris* – in 2013 from coastal Coquimbo. *Phyllotis stenops* (Chachapoyas area, apparently the sp. common in Kuelap), *P. pearsoni* (Cajamarca and N Ancash), and *P. occidentis* (Andes from Ancash to Lima) are split from *P. andium*. *P. rupestris* and *P. vaccarum* are listed among many subspecies of *P. xanthopygius*; the text mentions that *P. x. chilensis* from higher parts of the Altiplano might be a full species. *P. tucumanus* is split from *P. caprinus*; I think the ones in Los Cardones NP are the former and the ones at higher elevations of Calilegua NP are the latter. *P. nogalaris* from Jujuy is split from *P. osilae*. *P. alisosiensis* is still listed as a species although data (mentioned in the text) suggest it should be subsumed into *P. anitae*.

In addition, pretty much every South American species with large range is said to “likely represent a species complex”. On the other hand, splits published in South American journals are often found to be unjustified if anyone later reviews them, so I expect a lot of re-lumps in the future.

Tylomyinae. The climbing rats of La Pera in Chiapas, long known to be distinctive, were recently described as *Otodylomys chiapensis*. Four dubious forms of *Tylomys* described in 1873-1916 from Chiapas and Darien and never seen again are still listed as species; I've seen a few *Tylomys* in Darien and they looked like typical *T. mirae*, but, of course, it doesn't prove anything.

Deomyinae. *Acomys minous*, *A. cilicicus* and *A. nesiotetes* are still listed as valid species despite overwhelming evidence that they are old introductions of *A. cahirinus*. *A. chudeaui* (Moroccan Sahara, Western Sahara and western Sahel) is listed as separate from *A. cahirinus* and including *A. airensis* from central Sahara. *A. muzei* (the area between Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika), *A. ngurui* (E Tanzania), and *A. selousi* (SE Botswana, S Zimbabwe and adjacent South Africa) are split from *A. spinosissimus* (now mostly confined to Zambezi watershed and coastal Mozambique). *Lophuromys angolensis* (Angola and SW DRC) and *L. ansorgei* (from SE Cameroon to W Kenya) are split from *L. sikapusi* (Guinea to Cameroon). *L. aquilis* (common on Mt. Kilimanjaro), *L. verhageni* (Mt. Meru), *L. kilonzoi* (Uluguru and Usambara Mts.), *L. machangui* (Lake Malawi area), *L. makundii* (Mt. Hanang, Tanzania), *L. dudui* (DRC N of Congo River), *L. margarettae* (highlands of W Uganda and Kenya; I guess it's the one common in Aberdare NP), *L. simensis* (Lake Tana area and Simien Mts.), *L. stanleyi* (Rwensori Mts.), and *L. sabunii* (Ufipa Plateau in Tanzania) are all split from *L. flavopunctatus* (now confined to Ethiopia W of the Rift Valley). So is *L. brunneus* of SW Ethiopia, despite genetic evidence to the contrary. *L. chercherensis*, *L. pseudosikapusi*, and *L. menageshae* were described in 2007 from (respectively) Chercher Mts., Sheko Forest, and Menagesha Forest in W Ethiopia, but the latter might be conspecific with *L. melanonyx*. *L. laticeps* (Albertine Rift) and *L. rita* (DRC S of Congo River and NW Zambia) are split from *L. aquilis*. Note, however, that many *Lophuromys* splits are based only on mtDNA and small morphometric differences.

Gerbillinae. *Gerbilliscus giffardi* (E Guinea to Benin) is split from parapatric *G. kempii*, *G. vicinus* (Kenya & Tanzania) – from *G. robustus* (Niger to Somalia). *Gerbillus allenbyi* is listed as subspecies of *G. andersoni*, *G. peripallidus* – as synonym of *G. floweri*, *G. juliani* – as synonym of *G. watersi*. A whole bunch of *Gerbillus* species of dubious validity are listed.

Murinae. IUCN accounts for Murinae have been recently updated, so I'll only list the changes not reflected there.

Batomys hamiguitan was recently described from SE Mindanao, the form from Mt. Isarog (where it was common in 2001) was split as *B. uragon*. Recently described *Apomys* include *A. aurorae* (Mingan Mts.), *A. banahao* (Mt. Banahao), *A. brownorum* (Mt. Tapulao), *A. iridensis* (Mt. Irid), *A. magnus* (Mt. Banahao), *A. minganensis* (Mingan Mts.), *A. sierrae* (Sierra Madre and adjacent mountains), and *A. zambalensis* (Zambales Mts.) from Luzon, as well as *A. lubangensis* from Lubang I.

Leptomys afrakensis from Vogelkop and *L. paulus* from from SE PNG are split from *L. elegans*. New genus *Mirzamys* with species *M. louiseae* and *M. norahae* has recently been described from the mountains of New Guinea. New species of *Pseudohydromys* include *P. pumehanae*, *P. eleanorae*, and *P. carlae*, all from PNG mountains. *Pseudomys laborifex* is synonymized with *P. johnsoni*.

Many species of *Otomys* have been split; if you've seen vlei rats in any mountains from Ethiopia to Cape, you'll be able to identify your past sightings only if you have detailed habitat notes. *Otomys typus* is now restricted to high mountains of Ethiopia mostly W of the Rift; in the Simiens it co-occurs with *O. simiensis* (which is the species found at Sankaber campsite), while the ones in Lake Tana area are now *O. cheesmani*, those in juniper forests of SW Ethiopia are *O. fortior*, those in Bale Mts. are *O. helleri* (in open grasslands) and *O. yaldeni* (in and around montane forests), those in the Rwenzoris are *O. dartmouthi*, and those high on Mt. Kilimanjaro are *O. zinki* (there's also *O. tropicalis* below 2000m). *Otomys sungae* (wet meadows of Nyika Plateau and Eastern Arc Mts.) is split from *O. denti* (the Rwenzoris and Albertine Rift); it is sympatric with an undescribed species currently included in *O. lacustris* (in forests) and endemic *O. udzungwensis* (in high-elevation grasslands). Mt. Elgon now has two endemic vlei rats above 3000 m: *O. barbouri* (in swampy areas) and *O. jacksoni* (in dry tussocks); there is also a population of *O. tropicalis* at lower elevations that's likely to be split. *O. auratus* (wetlands in mountains along the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border and eastern South Africa) and *O. karoensis* (rocky slopes in Cape area and Drakensberg) are split from *O. irroratus* (wetlands in Cape area). Other newly recognized species are *O. dollmani* (Mt. Gargues), *O. orestes* (Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares), *O. thomasi*

(Mau Escarpment). The total number of *Otomys* species is now 29 but might reach 40; molecular evidence also suggests that *Parotomys* wistling rats should be included in *Otomys*.

Dephomys eburnae is split from sympatric *D. defua*. Many *Dasyimus* are split, and the species list is now as follows: *D. griseifrons* (Lakes Tana and Jigga), *D. foxi* (Nigeria), *D. longipilosus* (Mt. Cameroon), *D. rufulus* (W Africa), *D. montanus* (the Rwenzoris), *D. cabrali* (in and around Caprivi Strip), *D. nudipes* (Angola), *D. robertsii* (E Zimbabwe and NE S Africa), *D. capensis* (Cape area), *D. incomtus* (E S Africa & Zimbabwe, plus a likely split in C Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique), and *D. medius* (Albertine Rift and East Rift mountains). The latter includes three more East African taxa that are still listed despite being recently found to be conspecific: *D. alleni* (S part of Albertine Rift and a few mountains in S Tanzania), *D. rwandae* (Nyungwe Forest), and *D. sua* (Uluguru Mts.). *Grammomys poensis* (W Africa and W Central Africa) is split from *G. kuru* (NE Congo Basin to W Lake Victoria). *G. brevirostris* was described in 2008 from Loita Plains and likely includes all thicket rats found in more open habitats of Serengeti and Masai Mara. *Thamnomys major* is still listed as separate from *T. kempi* based on “larger size”, although the only known specimen of the former is within size range of the latter. *Rhodomys pumilio* is split into five species: *R. dilectus* (Lake Victoria to N Angola and NE S Africa), *R. bechuanae* (SW Angola to Orange River valley), *R. chakae* (E S Africa), *R. intermedius* (Nama Karoo), and *R. pumilio* (W and S coasts of S Africa).

Species list for genus *Mus* is outdated, with many recently recognized species of African subgenus *minutoides* missing: *M. proconodon* and *M. gerbillus* of Ethiopia and N Kenya, *M. wamae* from Mt. Kilimanjaro, *M. gratus* from many locations in E Africa, and *M. kasaicus* from C DRC. *M. lepidoides* was recently described from Myanmar.

Stenocephalemys pseudogriseicauda, recently described from Simien Mts., is not mentioned. The number of species in *Hylomyscus* has nearly doubled, mostly due to splits; the genus now includes the following: *H. baeri*, *H. simus* (both Sierra Leone to Ghana), *H. grandis* (Mt. Oku), *H. pamfi* (Dagomey Gap), *H. aeta* (Bioko I. and SE Cameroon to Uganda and N Zambia), *H. alleni* (the W half of the range of the previous sp.; both occur in Dzanga Sanga), *H. anselii* (SW Tanzania and N Zambia), *H. parvus* (Cameroon and Gabon to N DRC), *H. waltherverheyeni* (SW Cameroon to Congo; this and the previous spp. also occur in Dzanga Sanga), *H. stella* (E DRC to N Lake Victoria), *H. vulcanorum* (Albertine Rift), *H. acrimontensis* (Eastern Arc Mts.), *H. denniae* (Rwenzori Mts.), *H. endorobae* (mountains of WC Kenya), *H. kaimosae* (scattered records from S Sudan to Tanzania, common in Kakamega Forest), *H. kerbispeterhansi* (Mt. Elgon and Mau Escarpment), *H. carillus* and *H. heinrichorum* (both Angola). *Praomys coetzei* was described from Angola in 2008.

Niviventer huang (S China and much of Indochina) and *N. bukit* (Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Bali & S Vietnam) are split from *N. fulvescens* (Himalaya to Myanmar and extreme NW Vietnam). *N. lotipes* (Hainan) split from *N. tenaster*. *Chiromyscus thomasi* (Vietnam & N Laos) is split from sympatric *C. chiropus*. *Margaretamys christinae*, *Waiomys mamasae*, *Bunomys karokophilus* and *B. torajae* were recently described from Sulawesi, *Halmaheramys bokimekot* – from Halmahera, *H. wallacei* – from Bisa and Obi. *Hyorhinomys stuempkei*, described from Sulawesi in 2015, is missing.

A 2018 study by Thomson et al. came out too late to be incorporated; it found that *Nesokia* should be lumped with *Bandicota*, that *Nesokia+Bandicota*, *Diplotrix*, *Limnomys* and *Tarsomys* are all inside *Rattus* as currently recognized (a problem that can be solved by splitting all Australo-Papuan and some Wallacean *Rattus* into *Stenomys*), that *Chiromyscus* should be lumped with *Niviventer*, *Maxomys* with *Crunomys*, and that *Rattus timorensis* belongs in *Komodomys*. Interestingly, it also found that all *Bandicota* species are very similar genetically and might be ecomorphs.