Handbook of Mammals of the World, Vol. 8. – a brief review

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The volume suffers from the same problems as previous ones: insufficient editorial oversight and pro-splitting bias. Many well-substantiated lumps are mentioned in the text but not followed, while doubtful splits are often implemented too eagerly. There are numerous errors that even the most cursory editing should have fixed, and the text is highly repetitive (in treeshrew chapters, almost every sentence is repeated at least three times). The volume continues HMW's charming tradition of providing color illustrations of "external appearance" for species known only from skeletal material, such as Somali golden mole (known only from a few bones found in an owl pellet).

Changes compared to IUCN list:

Armadillos: *Dasypus beniensis* and *D. pastasae* are included in *D. kappleri* as subspecies; *D. hybridus* (Argentina, Uruguay and S Brazil) split from *D. septemcinctus*. A recent paper by Feijo et al. found *hybridus* to be a subspecies of *septemcinctus*, and both *pastasae* and *beniensis* to be full species separate of *D. pastasae*, but that paper was based on morphometrics while molecular approaches are clearly more desirable for this group.

Anteaters: northern and southern tamanduas are listed as separate species despite compelling evidence to the contrary (mentioned in the family chapter but not in species accounts). *Cyclopes* has been recently split into 7 species: *C. dorsalis* (Mexico to W Ecuador), *C. didactylus* (Orinoco basin to NE Brazil, incl. Trinidad), *C. ida* (N of Amazon River from E Ecuador to Manaus), *C. thomasi* (S of Amazon River from Peru to Madeira River), *C. rufus* (S of Amazon River from Madeira River to Aripuana River), *C. xinguensis* (S of Amazon River Madeira River to Xingu River) and *C. catellus* (Central Bolivia).

Sloths: *Bradypus pygmaeus* is still listed as a valid species, despite compelling evidence that it is just one of many small island populations of *B. variegatus*.

Tenrecs: web-footed tenrec *Limnogale mergulus* moved to *Microgale*; apparently it is nested within that genus despite all its aquatic adaptations.

Golden moles: Somali golden mole now listed as *Huetia tytonis*.

Treeshrews: HBW splits *Tupaia discolor* (Banka I.), *T. hypochrysa* (W Java), *T. salantana* (Kalimantan), and *T. ferruginea* (Sumatra) from *T. glis* following Sargis et al. (2013). In my opinion, that paper used flawed methodology and should be ignored (it also found that *T. glis* in Malay Peninsula should be split into 25 species). *Ptilocercus lowii* is now in its own family Ptilocercidae.

Hedgehogs and gymnures: genus *Mesechinus* now includes 4 species: widespread *M. dauuricus* (Transbaikalia to Central China), *M. hughi* (C. China), *M. miodon* (E Ningxia and Yulin area of Shaanxi), and *M. wangi* (described in 2018 from Gaolingongshan in SW Yunnan). Since the

volume was published, a new paper by Abramov *et al*. showed that Hainan gymnure (*Neohylomys hainanensis*) is common in northern Vietnam and should be included in *Hylomys*.

Shrews: *Sorex altoensis* (Durango to Oaxaca), *S. cristobalensis* (Chiapas), and *S. salvini* (Guatemala highlands, common in Sierra de los Cuchumatanes) are recognized as distinct from *S. veraecrucis* (Veracruz to Oaxaca) and *S. saussurei* (Jalisco to Puebla). *S. mccarthyi* was recently described from Celaque NP, Honduras. *S. chiapensis*, *S. ibarrai*, *S. madrensis*, and *S. mutabilis* are recognized as distinct from *S. veraepacis*, although in my opinion the argumentation is insufficient. *S. tenellus* is still listed as separate from *S. nanus*, although the differences are minor and mostly statistical. *S. fontinalis* is listed as separate from *S. cinereus*, although, again, the argumentation is extremely weak. *S. ugyunak*, *S. portenkoi*, *S. jacksoni*, *S. camtschaticus*, and *S leucogaster* are still listed as distinct from *S. pribilofensis* despite abundant molecular evidence to the contrary (acknowledged in the text). Similarly, *S. neomexicanus* is still listed as separate from *S. monticolus* despite being nested within it.

New species of *Cryptotis* include *C. lacandonensis* (SE Chiapas; I once caught it at my field site exactly on Guatemalan border but misidentified), *C. cavatorculus* (WC Honduras), *C. celaque* (Celaque NP in Honduras), *C. mccartyi* (NW Honduras), *C. magnimana* (W Honduras, recognizing it as distinct from *C. goodwini* is very poorly substantiated), *C. mam* (another split from *C. goodwini*, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes), *C. oreoryctes* (C Guatemala), *C. monteverdensis* (NW Costa Rica), *C. aroensis* (NW Venezuela), *C. dinirensis* (NW Venezuela), *C. perijensis* (Sierra de Perija), and *C. niausa* (Ecuador; this is the species occurring at Papallacta Pass). A few species are split from *C. parvus* (considered to occur S only to Texas): *C. berlanderi* (W & S Texas to Michoacan), *C. pueblensis* (San Luiz Potosi to Chiapas; apparently this was the species I saw above Malinalco in 2012), *C. soricinus* (Valley of Mexico), and *C. tropicalis* (highlands from Chiapas to W El Salvador). *C. osgoodi* (NC Ecuador, incl. Pichincha) is recognized as distinct from *C. equatoris* (now restricted to W slopes of the Andes). So the total number of species in this genus is soon going to exceed 50, and some of them are pretty much impossible to find and/or identify in the field.

Blarina peninsuale is recognized as distinct from *B. carolinensis* despite compelling evidence to the contrary. *Episoriculus baileyi* is split from sympatric *E. leucops*; *E. sacratus* (W Sichuan), *E. umbrinus* (SE Tibet to N Vietnam), and *E. soluensis* (subalpine forests of Nepal) – from *E. caudatus* (Himalaya from Kumaon to SE Tibet). *Chodsigoa furva* (SW Yunnan and adjacent Myanmar) is split from *C. smithii* (which is likely synonymous with *C. salenskii*); *C. hoffmanni* (SW Yunnan and N Vietnam) – from *C. parca* (Yunnan and Laos). After the volume was published, a new paper moved *Blarinella griselda* (China) from synonymy with *B. wardi* to a separate genus *Pantherina*.

Suncus is still listed as single genus although it's clearly polyphyletic. *S. niger* (S India) and *S. montanus* (Sri Lanka) are recognized as distinct from *S. murinus*, while *S. madagascarensis* is listed as a subspecies of *S. etruscus* (which is really weird unless it's an old introduction).

Diplomesodon pulchellum is still listed in a separate genus, although molecular evidence firmly places it within *Crocidura. C. negligens* is still listed as separate from *C. malayana*, and *C. vosmaeri* – from *C. beccarii*, although supporting evidence in both cases is extremely weak. *C. gathornei* has been recently described from Kumaon and Kulu Valley (India), *C. umbra* – from Mt. Gede (Java), *C. annamitensis* – from Huong Son (Vietnam), *C. guy* – from Ha Nang NR (also Vietnam), *C. batakorum* – from Palawan, *C. yaldeni* – from SW Ethiopia, *C. afeworkbekelei* – from Sanetti Plateau, *C. fingui* – from Principe I., *C. lwiroensis* – from zE

DRC. *C. panayensis* is split from *C. palawanensis*, *C. ninoyi* (Sibuyan I) – from *C. mindorus*, *C. neglecta* (Sumatra and possibly Borneo and Malay Pen.) – from *C. monticola* (Java), *C. eburnea* (Lower Guinea) – from sympatric *C. obscurior*, *C. munissii* (Easter Arc Mts.) from *C. monax* (Mt. Kilimanjaro). *C. horsfieldi* is now restricted to India (where very rare) and Sri Lanka (where common), while *C. fuliginosa* occurs only in SE Asia; similar but larger shrews from China and N Indochina have been split as *C. dracula*. *C. gueldenstaedtii* (Portugal to Iran) is finally split from *C. suaveolens* (Ukraine to Mongolia). *C. gmelini* is missing without explanation; I assume it's been lumped with *C. suaveolens*.

Myosorex meesteni has been recently described from E Zimbabwe and Mt. Gorongosa; *M. kabogoensis* – from Mt. Misotshi in DRC.

Moles: New species split in *Uropsilus*: *U. aequodonenia* (SW Sichuan), *U. atronates* and *U. nivatus* (both W. Yunnan). *Scapanus anthonyi* (Sierra San Pedro Martyr in Mexico) split from *S. latimanus*. *Mogera insularis* is now limited to NW Taiwan and Hainan; mainland moles have been split as *M. latouchei* and those from SE Taiwan as *M. kanoana*.

Genus *Talpa* now includes 14 species: *T. altaica* (C Siberia), *T. davidiana* (S Turkey, Kurdistan and possibly Syria), *T. talyschensis* (SW coast of the Caspian Sea), *T. ognevi* (Georgia and adjacent Turkey), *T. caucasica* (W Ciscaucasia and Abkhazia), *T. levantis* (Caucasus and N Turkey), *T. martinorum* (not included in HMW, described in 2018 from SE Bulgaria and European Turkey), *T. stankovici* (Balkans), *T. caeca* (Balkans and Italy), *T. romana* (Italy), *T. occidentalis* (Spain & Portugal), *T. aquitania* (NE Spain and SW France), and *T. europea* (widespread in Europe and W Siberia). I once had lunch at a highway rest area in SW France with lots of molehills on the lawn; once I saw the very tip of the mole's snout sticking out, and with some patience could easily catch the animal, but decided not to wait because I thought it would be just another *T. europaea*; turns out it was *T. aquitania*.

Genus *Euroscaptor* now includes 9 species: *E. micrurus* (E Nepal to SW Yunnan), *E. grandis* (Emeishan and W Yunnan), *E. longirostris* (Gansu to Fujian), *E. klossi* (N Thailand and NW Laos), *E. kuznetsovi* (N Vietnam and SE China), *E. orlovi* (W Yunnan and NW Vietnam), *E. subanura* (N Vietnam; this is the one in Tam Dao and Pu Mat National Parks), *E. parvidens* (C and S Vietnam), and *E. malayanus* (Cameron Highlands).