

## Observations, Discussions and Updates

### Recent changes in African Bat Taxonomy (2014 – 2015). Part I

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#### RHINONYCTERIDAE Gray 1866

FOLEY *et al.* (2014), examining molecular data (exons and introns), found that the genera: *Cloeotis* Thomas, 1901; *Triaenops* Dobson, 1871; *Paratriaenops* Benda and Vallo, 2009, and *Rhinonictis* Gray, 1847 formed a distinct clade separate from a clade comprising the genera *Asellia* Gray, 1838; *Aselliscus* Tate, 1941; *Coelops* Blyth, 1848 and *Hipposideros* Gray, 1831, which diverged approximately 39 Ma, in Africa.

The type genus being *Rhinonictis* Gray, 1847, but the spelling of the family name following the subtribe Rhinonycterina Gray 1866. For discussion on the spelling of the family name see FOLEY *et al.* (2014: supplementry data).

African genera effected: *Cloeotis* Thomas, 1901, *Paratriaenops* Benda and Vallo, 2009 and *Triaenops* Dobson, 1871.

#### *Miniopterus ambohitrensis* Goodman, Ramasindrazana, Naughton and Appleton 2015

Montagne d'Ambre Long-fingered Bat (Eng.). Miniopière de Montagne d'Ambre (Fr.)

Based on molecular (mitochondrial cytochrome *b*) and morphological characters (pelage coloration, external measurements, craniodental differences and tragus shape), GOODMAN *et al.* (2015b) found that in northern Madagascar *M. ambohitrensis* and *M. aelleni* are allopatric. With *M. ambohitrensis* found in montane humid forest, while *M. aelleni* being found in dry deciduous forest.

The name *ambohitrensis* is derived from the geological name of the type locality, which in Malagasy is Ambohitra and in French is Montagne d'Ambre. In Malagasy, the root word of Ambohitra is *vohitra* meaning mountain or highlands, giving an ecological context to the specific epithet of this bat, which occurs at higher elevations.

It is known from four localities in the northern and central Madagascar all from mountain regions and across an elevation range from about 800 to 1600m; its extent of occurrence is 15,143 km<sup>2</sup> and it is possibly partially migratory.

#### *Hypsugo bemaity* Goodman, Rakotondramanana, Ramasindrazana, Kearney, Monadjem, Schoeman, Taylor, Naughton and Appleton, 2015

Dark Madagascar Pipistrelle (Eng.) Pipistrelle sombre de Madagascar (Fr.)

GOODMAN *et al.* (2015a) found that individuals from Madagascar - previously identified as *H. anchietae* - differed molecular (mitochondrial cytochrome *b*) by 12.8% from *H. anchietae* in southern African. They also showed that *H. bemaity* and *H. anchietae* do differ from one another in cranial and bacular morphology.

The name *bemaity* is derived from the Malagasy, with 'be' meaning notably or considerably and 'maity' referring to dark coloration, hence meaning 'notably dark'. The name *bemaity* is also used by local guides in the Kirindy Forest for the spirit of a medicine man (ombiasy) that lives in the forest and with notably dark skin colour.

#### Literature cited

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