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WISSENSCHAFTLICHE KURZMITTEILUNGEN

Grammomys macmillani tuareg Braestrup, 1935: a junior synonym of *Praomys daltoni* (Thomas, 1892)

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Receipt of Ms. 28. 2. 1985

Arboreal mice of the genus *Grammomys* live in large parts of Africa's savannas. Several forms have been described but the whole genus is poorly understood to date. In the course of a partial revision of the genus (HUTTERER and DIETERLEN 1984) it became desirable to clarify the status of the form *tuareg* described by BRAESTRUP (1935) from specimens obtained at Timbuktu and Mopti in Mali by Mr. H. MADSEN. The type series of *tuareg* is deposited in the collections of the Zoologisk Museum København. ROSEVEAR (1969: 385) on examination of a paratype deposited in the British Museum (Natural History) declared that, "especially from the skull, this is certainly not a *Grammomys*". He refrained from determination, pending examination of the holotype.

In fact, renewed examination of the holotype (ZMK, C.N. 3887) skin revealed that a mammary formula 3–2 is tracable (instead of 2–2 given in the original description). Furthermore, the molar structure is that of *Praomys* rather than of *Grammomys*; cusp t7 is lacking on the first and second upper molar. The holotype represents an old adult animal, its teeth are much worn and third lower molars are missing on both sides. In general shape, size, and form of the interorbital plate the skull of the holotype agrees perfectly with specimens of *Praomys (Myomys) daltoni* (Thomas, 1892) from Ivory Coast and Upper Volta. However, the skull measurements of holo- and paratypes of *tuareg* (see BRAESTRUP 1935: 115) are rather small. Their body measurements (BRAESTRUP 1935: 114) and general colouration are typical of *P. daltoni* as well.

There were no field notes with the original material but the collector, Mr. MADSEN, stated subsequently that the Timbuktu specimens were caught in or near a store room. This

is in accordance with the known ecology of *Praomys daltoni* in West Africa (ROSEVEAR 1969).

Praomys daltoni has apparently not been recorded from Mali so far. Furthermore, the specimens from Timbuktu and Mopti represent the northernmost record of the species at all. VAN DER STRAETEN and VERHEYEN (1978) recognized that typical *Praomys daltoni* (type locality: West Africa, probably the Island of Fernando Poo) from southern regions of West Africa have larger skull measurements than specimens from savanna regions from near Lamto, Ivory Coast. As mentioned earlier, the specimens from Timbuktu, Mali have also small skulls compared to material from Ivory Coast. Further studies might well prove that the northern populations of *Praomys daltoni* form a distinct subspecies for which the name *Praomys daltoni tuareg* could then be applied.

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Taxonomic status of *Eptesicus platyops* (Thomas, 1901) (Chiroptera, Vespertilionidae)

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Receipt of Ms. 22. 4. 1985

The taxonomic position of *Eptesicus platyops* (Thomas, 1901) in western Africa is uncertain. At first it was thought to be related to *E. hottentotus* (A. Smith, 1833) found in southern Africa, to which it was associated as a subspecies (ROSEVEAR 1962, 1965). Later various authors (ROSEVEAR 1965; KOCK 1969; HAYMAN and HILL 1971) considered the possibility of its being co-specific with *E. serotinus* (Schreber, 1774) to which it seems more akin. However, more recent papers consider it as a valid species (HONACKI et al. 1982). The reason for this uncertainty is probably the scarcity of known specimens. Only the Nigerian holotype and another from Senegal are available (ROSEVEAR 1965).

The Estación Biológica de Doñana collection has three specimens of the genus *Eptesicus* from Malabo, Bioko island (formerly Santa Isabel, Fernando Poo), Equatorial Guinea. One is a female and the sex of the other two is undetermined. They were captured on 2. 8. 1967. All three are subadults and their wing phalangeal epiphysis are not completely fused, although the skulls appear to be totally ossified. Their dimensions are very nearly those of a full-grown adult. The measurements (in mm) of the female, followed by those two of

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Mammalian Biology \(früher Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde\)](#)

Jahr/Year: 1984

Band/Volume: [50](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Hutterer Rainer, Braestrup F. W.

Artikel/Article: [Grammomys macmillani tuareg Braestrup, 1935: a junior synonym of Praomys daltoni \(Thomas, 1892\) 240-241](#)