

On the nomenclature of Bathyergidae and *Fukomys* n. gen. (Mammalia: Rodentia)

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Abstract

Recently, in an examination of the phylogenetic relationships among the mole-rats of the family Bathyergidae (Mammalia: Rodentia), Ingram *et al.* (2004) documented molecular evidence for the recognition of the *Cryptomys mechowii* species group at the generic level and resurrected the name *Coetomys* Gray, 1864 for this group. Subsequent literature review revealed that *Coetomys* is not available to this species group, being a junior synonym of *Cryptomys* Gray, 1864. Here, we describe and diagnose *Fukomys* genus novum. In addition, we discuss the taxonomic history of this group in an attempt to reduce the nomenclatural confusion that has plagued studies of the Bathyergidae for over a century.

Key words: *Fukomys* new genus, *Coetomys*, *Cryptomys*, Bathyergidae, Rodentia, mole-rats, blesmols, Africa, nomenclature, taxonomy

Introduction

Ingram *et al.* (2004) studied and reviewed the molecular genetics of species of *Cryptomys* Gray, 1864, and documented the existence of two species groups (the *hottentotus* group and the *mechowii* [sic, *mechowii* Peters 1881] group), each of which warrant generic rank (cf. also Faulkes *et al.* 2004). Ingram *et al.* (2004: 1008) introduced *Coetomys* Gray, 1864