



## New and noteworthy records of Rodentia (Erethizontidae, Sciuridae, and Cricetidae) from Paraguay

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### Abstract

Extensive field work conducted in Paraguay since 1995 allowed us to present the first records for this country of the family Sciuridae (*Sciurus urucumus*), the genus *Bibimys* (*B. chacoensis*), and the species *Akodon paranaensis*, in addition to the first formal mention of *Oxymycterus misionalis*, and noteworthy records of *Cerradomys maracajuensis*, *Pseudoryzomys simplex*, and *Sphiggurus spinosus*. These records demonstrate that the mammal fauna of the Paraguayan Oriental Region is more similar in species richness and composition to that of adjacent regions of Argentina and Brazil than previously realized.

**Key words:** *Akodon*, Atlantic forest, *Bibimys*, *Cerradomys*, Chaco, *Oxymycterus*, *Pseudoryzomys*, *Sciurus*, Sigmodontinae, *Sphiggurus*

### Resumen

Un extenso trabajo de campo realizado en Paraguay desde 1995 nos permitió brindar los primeros registros para el país de la familia Sciuridae (*Sciurus urucumus*), el género *Bibimys* (*B. chacoensis*) y la especie *Akodon paranaensis*, además de la primera mención formal de *Oxymycterus misionalis* y registros novedosos de *Cerradomys maracajuensis*, *Pseudoryzomys simplex* y *Sphiggurus spinosus*. Estos registros indican que la mastofauna de la Región Oriental de Paraguay es en términos de riqueza específica y composición, más similar a las zonas adyacentes de Argentina y Brasil de lo considerado previamente.

**Palabras claves:** *Akodon*, *Bibimys*, Bosque Atlántico, *Cerradomys*, Chaco, *Oxymycterus*, *Pseudoryzomys*, *Sciurus*, Sigmodontinae, *Sphiggurus*

### Introduction

Paraguay is one of two landlocked countries of South America, lying in the center of the continent (S 19° to 28°, W 54° to 63°). Its 406,752 km<sup>2</sup> are subdivided by the large Paraguay River into two distinctive regions. The Chaco west of the Paraguay River consists of a mosaic of grasslands, palm savannas, open woodlands and xeric thorn forests. This region represents about 60% of the land area of Paraguay and holds fewer than 100,000 human inhabitants. The region east of the Paraguay River, known as the Oriental Region, represents about 40% of the land area and contains about 98 % of the country's human population. The Oriental Region