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## A new species of the rodent genus *Hylomyscus* from Angola, with a distributional summary of the *H. anseli* species group (Muridae: Murinae: Praomyini)

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### Abstract

A new species of *Hylomyscus*, *H. heinrichorum*, is described from mountains in western Angola. Based on morphological traits and cranial morphometry, the new species is assigned to the *H. anseli* species group and is hypothesized to be most closely related to *H. anseli* Bishop proper, a species named from Zambia. Members of both the *H. anseli* and *H. denniae* species groups occupy the Afromontane Biotic Zone, found in various mountain systems to the south and east of the Congo Basin. Evidence is reviewed that supports the independent radiation of these two species groups within montane forest from different Guineo-Congolian ancestral stocks.

**Key words:** Afromontane, biogeography, taxonomy, traditional morphometrics

### Introduction

This paper addresses the taxonomic status of populations of the rodent genus *Hylomyscus* Thomas (Muridae, Murinae) that occur in the highlands of westcentral Angola. In early faunal reports, only a single species of *Hylomyscus*, *H. carillus* Thomas (1904), was identified in Angola (Hill & Carter, 1941; Crawford-Cabral, 1986, 1998). Musser & Carleton (1993, 2005), however, drew attention to the presence of at least three *Hylomyscus* species in Angola, *H. carillus* and *H. stella* Thomas distributed within the northern lowlands and an unnamed form from the high-mountain region, along the western rim of the Angolan Plateau. The existence of the highland form was first discerned based on material preserved in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, that was independently examined by Carleton (Sep 1984) and Guy G. Musser (May 1992). They provisionally identified the FMNH specimens as *H. denniae* Thomas (Musser & Carleton, 1993, 2005), a species whose distribution was then understood to be restricted to the East African highlands (ca. 1800–3800 m in mountains of westcentral Kenya and those bordering the Albertine Rift). The FMNH Angolan specimens were collected in 1954 by the naturalist Gerd H. Heinrich at Mount Moco and Mount Soque during an expedition conducted for both the FMNH and the Zoologisches Institut und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg (Heinrich, 1958a–c). Carleton & Stanley (2005:637) later associated these two FMNH series with the *H. anseli* complex, not the *H. denniae* complex, a species-group distinction elaborated by Carleton *et al.* (2006) in their revision of *H. denniae* and its allies (*H. endorobae* Heller, *H. vulcanorum* Lönnberg & Gyldenstolpe).

We herein present morphological and morphometric evidence that sustains the recognition of the Angolan form as a species distinct from other members of the *H. anseli* species group (*H. anseli* Bishop, *H. arcimontensis* Carleton & Stanley, *H. kerbispeterhansi* Demos, Agwanda, & Hickerson) and summarize the distributions of the two *Hylomyscus* species groups characteristic of the Afromontane biotic region (*sensu* White, 1978, 1981).