

A new endemic species of the subgenus *Mus* (Rodentia, Mammalia) on the Island of Cyprus

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ABSTRACT

The house mouse (*Mus musculus domesticus*) and the short-tailed mouse of the eastern Mediterranean area (*M. macedonicus*) were thought to live sympatrically on Cyprus Island. Recently, a phylogenetic survey has shown that the non-commensal mouse of Cyprus was an unknown sister species of European wild mice. Here, we describe this new species of the genus *Mus* (Rodentia, Mammalia), namely *Mus cypriacus* sp. n., based on 19 specimens trapped in the southern part of Cyprus. These animals were first compared to Eurasian species of mice using both molecular genetics (complete D-loop sequences and nuclear gene intron) and cytogenetics to state on its systematic status. Then classical and geometric morphometric analyses on both cranial and dental characters