

Review of: "Ancient DNA Clarifies the Identity and Geographic Origin of the Holotype of the Genus *Ctenomys*"

Vladislav A. Gorin¹

¹ Moscow State University, Russian Federation

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an important work that updates our current knowledge on the taxonomy of the genus *Ctenomys*. The authors clarify the long-standing question of the type species of the genus using an integrative approach, combining molecular, morphological, and geographic evidence. I find the proposed taxonomic act well-justified.

After going through the paper (and the reviews), I ended up with just 2 minor concerns:

1) It would be really good to find a reference for the usage of the CytB gene to calculate p-distances in rodents. That would provide authors (and readers) an opportunity to interpret the observed difference in this gene. At the moment, it's hard to judge whether the reported distances are low or high.

2) I think this paper will greatly benefit from any figures on the morphology of the examined specimens. Images of the cranium would be of great interest to any reader. Currently, they are missing (only mentioned in the text), and I find it disappointing.

Overall, I find this paper by Maestri, Gonçalves, and colleagues nicely written, scientific, sound, and congratulate them on this discovery.