

New species of Karydomys (Rodentia) from the Miocene of Chios Island (Greece) and phylogenetic relationships of this rare democricetodontine genus

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NEW SPECIES OF *KARYDOMYS* (RODENTIA) FROM THE MIOCENE OF CHIOS ISLAND (GREECE) AND PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THIS RARE DEMOCRICETODONTINE GENUS

Raquel López-Antoñanzas^{1,2}, Pablo Peláez-Campomanes³, Jérôme Prieto⁴ & Fabien Knoll^{5,6}

EPHE, Cc 064; Montpellier, France.

Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany

Kingdom

¹ Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution de Montpellier, Université Montpellier, CNRS, IRD,

²School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

³Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales-CSIC, Madrid, Spain.

⁴Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Palaeontology and Geobiology, Ludwig-

⁴Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Geologie, Munich, Germany

⁵ ARAID—Fundación Conjunto Paleontológico de Teruel-Dinópolis/ARAID, Teruel, Spain

⁶School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester, Manchester, United

*Corresponding author Raquel López-Antoñanzas, Laboratoire de Paléontologie, Institut des Sciences de l'Évolution (UMR-CNRS 5554), Université Montpellier 2, Place Eugène Bataillon, F-34095 MONTPELLIER Cedex 5

E-mail: raquel.lopez-antonanzas@umontpellier.fr

Abstract: Karydomys is a rare and little diversified democricetodontine, of which only six species are currently recognised. This group of rodents is first recorded known since in the Early Miocene (MN3) in China and spread quickly after to Kazakhstan and Greece (MN 4). Karydomys reached south-western and central Europe by early Middle Miocene times (MN5), where it became extinct shortly thereafter (MN6). New findings from the Miocene of Chios Island (north-eastern Aegean Sea) reveal the presence of a new species of *Karydomys* in the Keramia Formation. Karydomysk. strati sp. nov. is characterized by the presence of a labial spur on the anterolophule, the lack of anterior protolophule on the M1 and by the presence of a double metalophule on the M2. A cladistics analysis involving all the species of Karydomys and some closely related species of Democricetodon and Cricetodon has been carried out. The results show that Karydomys split early into two different lineages, an "eastern stock", which that includes the central Asian (Karydomys K. debruijni and KarydomysK., dzerzhinskii) and Greek (KarydomysK., symeonidisi, KarydomysK., boskosi and Karydomys K. strati-sp. nov.) species, and a "western lineage", which is constituted by the western and central European species (KarydomysK. wigharti and KarydomysK. zapfei). The evolutionary stage of Karydomys strati sp. nov suggests that the lowermost part of the Keramia Formation, usually attributed to the Middle Miocene, is older than previously thought.

Key words: Mammalia, Cricetidae, *Karydomys*, phylogenycladistics, taxonomy, Miocene. Chios

INTRODUCTION

Asia Minor has been an important area for the exchange of faunas between Europe, Asia and Africa, especially during the early Early Miocene (RoglRögl, 1999; Koufos et al, 2005). At that time, important dispersals from the East occurred through that area, deeply transforming the mammalian composition of Europe (Van der Made 1999; Agustí et al 2001). The faunal changes were particularly important for rodents, since the entrance of "modern" cricetids in Europe at the end of the Early Miocene disrupted the structure of communities at the endo of the Early Miocene, which, had been till then, were dominated by eomyids and glirids until then (Daams & Van der Meulen, 1984; Van der Meulen & Daams, 1992; Agustí et al 2001). The entrance appearance of cricetids in Europe was, nevertheless, not the result of an isolated single dispersal event migration but instead occurred in a succession of events several successive waves, as shown by the timing of arrival of the three main groups of cricetids, the Democricetodontinae, Megacricetodontinae and Cricetodontinae (De Bruijn et al 1992; Theocharopoulos 2000; Van den Hoek Ostende et al 2015; Oliver & Peláez-Campomanes 2016). In order to fully understand all these such faunal migrations interchanges, it is important to improve our knowledge of the fossil record from key areas and develop phylogenetic hypotheses of about the taxa involved in a robust chronological framework. In this way, the fossil record of small mammals from the early Early and middle Middle Miocene of the north-eastern Aegean island of Chios, at the crossroad between Anatolia and south-eastern Europe, is of key critical importance for the establishment of a more precise biogeographic framework.

In the summer of 2010, two of us (RLA and FK) prospected in Chios Island. After sampling various levels in the Michalos' pit and its surroundings, they were able to locate two layers with Miocene vertebrates (López-Antoñanzas & Knoll, 2011). The higher fossiliferous horizon was an arenaceous stratum that yielded only a cranial fragment of a

large indeterminate mammal. Nevertheless However, the a-lower in the Keramia Formation one was a a thin argillaceous lens—in the Keramia Formation, that produced a diverse vertebrate fauna after screen-washing and sorting, which motivated a return to the site in the summer of 2012 and the exploitation of the lens to near its-exhaustion. Altogether, over two metric tons of rock were processed, obtaining as a result nearly 200 teeth of small mammals. In fact, even though remains of large mammals (comprising a phalange of an indeterminate ruminant, a possible tooth fragment of *Cainotherium* and another of *Sanitherium*) and reptilian jaw and osteoderm fragments were retrieved from this new spot, rodents and, to a lesser extent, lagomorphs and insectivores are best represented by far. Preliminary identification of the lagomorphs suggests the presence of *Albertona*. The insectivore record consists of galericines. Rodents include a wide range of taxa belonging to cricetids, glirids, sciurids and ctenodactylids. Among them, cricetids are the most abundant, in particular species belonging to genera usually present in the eastern Mediterranean region during the early Miocene, such as *Cricetodon*, *Megacricetodon* and *Democricetodon*, but remains of the rare-unusual democricetodontine genus *Karydomys* were also found.

Karydomys is a rare and little diversified democricetodontine, which shows a discontinuous record, geographically as well as chronologically. Its oldest record (Karydomys debruijni) comes from the early Miocene (MN3) of northern Xinjian (China) (Maridet et al., 2011). This taxonThe genus may have rapidly expanded its range westward, as its presence is attested shortly later in the early Miocene (MN4) of eastern Kazakhstan (Karydomys dzerzhinskii) (Kordikova and De Bruijn, 2001) and Greece (Karydomys boskosi and Karydomys symeonidisi) (Theocharopoulos, 2000). Some undescribed findings of Karydomys from the early Miocene (MN 4) of western Anatolia (Ünay & Goktas, 1999; Kaya et al., 2007) indicate that this area may well have been on a route between central Asia and Greece. Karydomys may have reached south-western (Karydomys zapfei) (Mein & Freudentahl 1981)

and central Europe (*Karydomys wigharti*) (Mörs and Kalthoff, 2004, Prieto, 2012, 2013) by Middle Miocene times, where it became most probably extinct at about 13.8 Ma (<u>Aa single M2 from the fissure filling Petersbuch 6</u>; Prieto, 2012).

Because of its geographic position between Asia and Europe as well as its age, somewhat older than the first European occurrences known so far, the presence of *Karydomys* in the Keramia Formation (""Keramaria" in Besenecker, 1973) of Chios is not a trivial record. The aim of the present work is to provide a description of the teeth of the new species of *Karydomys* discovered from the Keramia Formation of Chios Island and seize the opportunity to try and shed light on the evolutionary history of this group of rodents by deciphering their phylogenetic relationships with other Democricetodontinae and representative Cricetodontinae, and touching upon the possible dispersal routes of this hamster.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

Stratigraphical context

Chios Island is situated in the north-eastern part of the Aegean Sea. The continental Tertiary—Cenozoic sediments of Chios are located mainly in the southeastern part of the island, unconformably overlying Mesozoic strata (Fig. 1). The Neogene deposits have been subdivided by Besenecker (1973) into four lithostratigraphical units, which are from bottom to top: the Thymiana Formation (Early Miocene), Zyfia Formation (Early—Middle Miocene), Keramia Formation (Middle Miocene) and Nenita Formation (Middle Miocene—Pliocene).

The Keramia Formation is about 120 m thick (Kondopolous et al., 2011). It consists mainly of layers of green-reddish clay and silt with less important layers of green sandstones intercalated (Besenecker, 1973). The green and reddish colours are characteristic of this formation and make it easily recognizable in the field (Besenecker, 1973). Besides, the

sediments of the Keramia Formation are clearly delimited by a light "Tuff-horizon" below, on the base and by the overlying white limestones of the Nenita Formation on the top (Besenecker, 1973).

Kondopoulou *et al.* (1993) conducted a magnetostratigraphical study in a 46_m-thick section of the Keramia Formation in the Michalos' pit area that included the three fossiliferous localities THA, THB and THC. The long reversal dominating the section was tentatively correlated to-either with chron C5Br or chron C5Cr based on the biochronological age given then suggested by the mammals found. –Later on, Kondopoulou *et al.* (2011) provided some supplementary magnetostratigraphical data resulting from the sampling of the almost complete Keramia Formation in the Michalos section (about 120 m thickness), also including approximately 10 m of the Zayfa Formation at the bottom of the section. Thus, they include presented information about the lower and uppermost parts of the section that was not considered in Kondopoulou *et al.* (1993). Even if the detailed magnetostratigraphical resultsstudy are still pending publication (Kondopoulou *et al.* 2011), their Their preliminary interpretation of their results could be seem to be in agreement correlating with a correlation of the section to with the interval including chron C5Dr to C5bnC5Bn (Hilgen et al., 2012, fig. 29.9).

Palaeontological background and biochronology

All of the vertebrate specimens yielded so far by the Miocene <u>layers</u> of Chios (at least in modern history) come from the exposure of the Keramia Formation in or close to the brickyard quarry known as "Michalos", which is situated SSE of the village of Thymiana, about 8 km from Chios city. The first finding of vertebrate remains from Michalos' pit was made in 1924 by the geologist <u>GeorgalasGeorgaleas</u>, but Paraskevaidis (1940, 1955) was the first to publish on the Miocene vertebrate fauna from Chios (macromammals, *Sanitherium* and others, but also evidence of tortoises). Additional, but more cursory, observations on

similar vertebrate remains (macromammal —particularly sanitheriid and bovid— but also chelonian fragments) from the Neogene of the vicinity of Thymiana were published by Kreatsas (1963). Palaeontological field-works in the Michalos area that were conducted in 1967 and 1968 in the framework of a Germano-Hellenic project led-contributed to improve significantly improvement improved of our the understanding of the mammalian fauna from the Keramia Formation (see Melentis & Tobien, 1967, 1968, Tobien, 1968, 1969, 1977, 1980, Rothausen, 1977, Lehmann & Tobien, 1995). In total, nine fossiliferous layers were recognized at the end of 60's, Thy 1-9, which were and described by Rothausen (1977). Most of the material collected then was fragmentary remains of bovids and giraffids, but a nearly complete skull of Gomphotherium angustidens was also discovered (and is still remembered locally!). Micromammals were also found, but were never described in detail and their present whereabouts are is unknown. The same holds true for the lizards, tortoises and fish remains also foundretrieved-along. Complementary studies on the vertebrate faunas from Chios arose from Helleno-French field campaigns in 1991 and 1993 (Kondopoulou et al., 1993; Koufos et al., 1995; Bonis et al., 1997a, 1997b, 1998; López-Antoñanzas et al., 2005). In addition to the nine fossiliferous levels described by Rothausen (1973), three new levels were found in the 90's by the Hellenic French teamon this occasion, "Thymiana A" (THA), "Thymiana B" (THB) and "Thymiana C" (THC) (Kondoupulou et al., 1993). Besides a few interesting macromammalian remains (mostly of sanitheriid and bovid affinities), some of them well preserved, these fieldworks resulted in the eollection building up of a rich micromammal faunacollection, which is yet to be studied in its entirety.

Our main fossiliferous layer is situated on the coast, about 340 meters SSW from the main brick building. It does not correspond to any of the localities previously sampled. The stratigraphical position of the new layer suggests it may be coeval with the most basal

fossiliferous layers (Thy 1 and Thy 5), but older than the other ones. We name it informally Thy 0.

The mammalian fauna of the Keramia Formation is considered as from the biozone MN 5 (Mein, 1989; Steininger et al., 1989; Bruijn et al., 1992; Bonis et al., 1997a, 1997b; 1998; Bonis & Koufos, 1999; Made, 1999; Koufos, 2006). This dating age is based both on the macromammals and the evolutionary stage and composition of the micromammal fauna, notably the cricetids. However, the macromammal remains from this area are fragmentary and the micromammals have never been properly described. In fact, only Tobien (1968) and Bonis et al. (1997a) listed the micromammals that they recognized and only a single group of rodents, the ctenodactylines, has been the object of a detailed study (López-Antoñanzas et al., 2005). Kondoupoulou et al. (1993) showed that the fossiliferous levels THA, THB and THC were included in a long reverse episode that, considering the MN5 age provided by the mammalian fauna, could be correlated with the Chron C5Br, which in turn provided an age of about 15.5 Ma (Koufos, 2006). For instance, the micromammals from THA and THC were supposed to be younger than that those of Aliveri (MN 4) but quite similar to the to that of Komotini (MN 5) assemblage (Bonis et al., 1997a; Bonis and Koufos, 1999). Considering that our fossiliferous level Thymiana 0 is at the base of the Keramia Formation, it may be correlated with the Chron C5Cr, which would correspond to an Early Miocene age of 16.7-17.23 Ma.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Remains of micromammals were obtained by screen washing almost 2 tons of sediment with a mesh light of 0.5 mm. First, second and third lower molars are designated as m1, m2 and m3, and first, second and third upper molars as M1, M2 and M3, respectively. The

terminology used in the tooth descriptions follows those of Freudenthal et al. (1994) and López-Antoñanzas et al. (2010). Measurements of the occlusal surface of the teeth (maximum length [L] and maximum width [W]) were obtained with a Nikon digital counter CM-6S measuring device, following the method of van de Weerd (1976) (Table 1). All measurements are given in millimetres. The teeth of the species of Karydomys described in this work were compared with all the all-known species belonging to this genus. Scans and SEMs of the teeth of the specimens have been taken with a CT-SCAN Nikon XT H-160 and a Scanning Electron Microscope FEI QUANTA 200. All the species of *Karydomys* known to date were included in the ingroup. These are: Karydomys K. debruijni, Karydomys K. dzerzhinskii, Karydomys K. symeonidisi, Karydomys <u>K.</u> boskosi, <u>Karydomys K.</u> wigharti, <u>Karydomys K.</u> zapfei and <u>Karydomys K.</u> strati. sp. nov. from Chios. In addition, a selection of closely related non-congeneric species were added to the ingroup so as to test the monophyly of the genus Karydomys and to clear up its phylogenetic relationships with species currently attributed to *Democricetodon*, from which Karydomys may have evolved, and Cricetodon. These are Democricetodon anatolicus, Democricetodon D. doukasi, Democricetodon D. gracilis, Democricetodon D. franconicus, Democricetodon D. mutilus, Cricetodon versteegi, Cricetodon C. tobieni, Cricetodon C. kasapligili, Cricetodon-C. aliveriensis, Cricetodon-C. trallesensis, Cricetodon-C. orientalis, <u>Cricetodon C.</u> meini, <u>Cricetodon C.</u> engesseri, <u>Cricetodon C.</u> hungaricus, <u>Cricetodon C.</u> bolligeri. Eucricetodon wangae, a primitive Cricetidaecricetid rodent, was selected as outgroup. A total of 32 phylogenetically informative characters (mainly of dental morphology) have been coded (see appendix <u>\$1-\$1</u>). 19 characters are binary, whereas 13 are multistate. The data matrix (archived in the Dryad Digital Data Repository: López-Antoñanzas et al. 2018) see appendix S2) was built using Mesquite 23.6-04 (Maddison and

Maddison 2009) and the analysis was run in TNT (Goloboff et al. 2008) with the "traditional

search" option (using TBR). Owing to the lack of a priori information, all characters were unordered and equally weighted (Fitch optimality criterion). As some species are known so far from only a few specimens, the influence of intraspecific variation in the scoring of the characters could not be assessed. Branch support was estimated through two complementary indices: Bremer Support (Bremer 1994) and Relative Bremer Support (Goloboff and Farris 2001).

All the specimens are provisionally stored at the University of Montpellier, Montpellier (France)

SYSTEMATIC PALAEONTOLOGY

Order RODENTIA Bowdich, 1821

Family CRICETIDAE Fischer von Waldheim, 1817

Subfamily DEMOCRICETODONTINAE Lindsay, 1987

Genus KARYDOMYS Theocharopoulos, 2000

Type species. Karydomys symeonidisi Theocharopoulos, 2000

Karydomys strati sp. nov.

LSID_urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0958B82F-9788-4DE3-94EF-6287172E1103

Figs 2-3

Derivatio nominis. From Stratus, latinized latinised form of Stratos (Greek: Στράτος), genitive. In honour of Stratos Asmanis in recognition of his warm-hearted hospitality during our work in the Michalos pit.

Holotype. ThyUM Thy 0-30, a left M2. This and the paratype specimens are housed in the palaeontological collections of the University of Montpellier (Montpellier, France).

Paratypes. ThyUM Thy 0-9, left M1, ThyUM Thy 0-39, right m1; ThyUM Thy 0-2, right

m2; ThyUM Thy 0-5, right m2; ThyUM Thy 0-145, right m3 (broken); Thy 0-30, left M2; ThyUM Thy 0-48 left M2; ThyUM Thy 0-54, left M2 (broken).

Type localityhorizon and locality. Thymiana 0. Lowermost part of the Keramia Formation, SSE of the village of Thymiana, about 8 km from Chios city (Greece).

Age. late Early Miocene (MN4).

Diagnosis. Species of *Karydomys* characterized by having a backward paracone spur and long and narrow mesolophs on the M1 and M2, having labial spur of the anterolophule and lacking anterior protolophule and metalophule on the M1 but having double protolophules and metalophules on the M2; lower molars with ectomesolophid and long and narrow mesolophids.

Karydomys strati differs from Karydomys K-arydomys debruijni in lacking the posterior metalophulid on the m1, in having a well-developed ectomesolophid on some m2, a strong posterior spur of the paracone on the M1 and M2 and a double metalophule on the M2 (whereas it is either anteriorly connected or absent in Karydomys Karydomys debruijni). It differs from Karydomys dzerzhinskii in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, in having the anterior and posterior protolophule unequally developed and in showing a double metalophule on the M2 (in Karydomys Karydomys dzerhinskii the single metalophule is usually anteriorly located). It can be distinguished from Karydomys symeonidisi in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, which is present in most of the M1 of Karydomys symeonidisi, and in having a double metalophule on the M2. It is unlike Karydomys boskosi in being larger, lacking a posterior ridge of the metaconid and having a strong metalophulid and longer and narrower mesolophid on the m1. It differs from Karydomys wigharti in being

noticeably smaller (Fig. 4), in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, having a backward paracone spur on the M1 and M2 and a double protolophule on the M2. It is different from *Karydomys zapfei* in being significantly smaller (Fig. 4), in having ectomesolophid on the m1, a long mesoloph on the M1, a distinct backward paracone spur on the M1 and M2, and a₇ markedly bendingbent, double metalophule on the M2.

Description

m1 The m1 has a small and single oval anteroconid. Both labial and lingual anterolophids are distinct. The labial anterolophid is of medium length and it does not reach the base of the protoconid, whereas the lingual one is short and encloses a rounded anterosinusid. The anterior metalophulid that connects the metaconid with the anteroconid is well-developed, whereas the posterior one is absent. The long and narrow mesolophid reaches the lingual side of the tooth, where it forms a mesostylid. The ectomesolophid is long and narrow. The entoconid is located anteriorly to the hypoconid and the hypolophid is close to the mesolophid. The posterolophid is long and reaches the posterior side of the entoconid lingually, closing the posterosinusid. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

m2 Two lower second molars, of which one is in-very well preserved and the other is damaged, have been found. The occlusal outline of these teeth is rectangular. Both show well-developed labial and lingual anterolophids. The labial anterolophid is longer than the lingual one. The metalophulid connects to the anteroconid. The anterolophulid is very short. The mesolophid is nearly transverse, either long and narrow (ThyUM Thy 0-5) or but it can be short (ThyUM Thy 0-2). It can reach the lingual border of the tooth, where it finishes in a mesostylid (ThyUM Thy 0-5). The metaconid and the mesolophid are connected by a longitudinal, and thin crest. The ectomesolophid is long (ThyUM Thy 0-5) or absent (as-in

the damaged specimen (ThyUM Thy 0-2). The entoconid is anteriorly located with respect to the hypoconid. The strong hypolophid, very close to the mesolophid, bents bends forward anteriorly and it is located very close to the mesolophid. The long posterolophid joins with the posterolingual side of the entoconid. It encloses a deep and large posterosinusid. The roots of these teeth are not preserved.

m3 The most anterior part of the single m3 found in Chios—is missing. Its occlusal outline is sub-triangular, its posterior part being as it is—reduced and rounded. The metalophulid is connected to the anterior arm of the protoconid and the mesolophid is absent. The well-developed hypolophid is slightly oblique and encloses the much reduced entoconid. The hypoconid is large although somewhat smaller than the protoconid. The posterolophid is long and joins with the posterolabial side of the entoconid, enclosing a large and circular posterosinusid. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

M1 The anterocone of the A-single first upper molar found has been found. The anterocone is slightly divided. The lingual anteroloph is a very thin crest that runs to meet the anterior side of the protocone, enclosing the protosinus. The strong anterolophule connects the protocone to the middle part of the anterocone. This tooth shows a distinct labial spur on the anterolophule. The anterosinus is labially closed by a low ridge, which runs from the labial side of the anterocone to the anterior part of the paracone. This tooth has no anterior protolophule (protolophule I) and the posterior protolophule (protolophule II) connects to the entoloph well-posteriorly to the protocone. The protocone and the entoloph are firmly connected. The tooth shows a short but very distinct backward paracone spur. The mesoloph is long and narrow, reaching the labial border of the tooth. The sinus is closed by a ridge that connects the anterolingual side of the hypocone to the base of the protocone. The

metalophule is short and joins with the posteroloph. This latter connects to the metacone, enclosing a small posterosinus. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

M2 Three teeth, two of them complete (ThyUM Thy 0-30 and ThyUM Thy 0-48) and the other one damaged (ThyUM Thy 0-54), have been found. The teeth show well-developed labial and lingual anterolophs. The labial anteroloph is connected to the base of the paracone, enclosing a narrow anterosinus, whereas the lingual one reaches the base of the protocone enclosing the protosinus. The protolophule is double, but its degree of development varies from one specimen to another. Specimen ThyUM Thy 0-30 shows the anterior protolophule slightly interrupted and weaker than the posterior one. Thy UM Thy 0-48 has the anterior protolophule strong, whereas the posterior one is weaker and interrupted. Thy UM Thy 0-54 has both anterior and posterior protolophules complete. All specimens have a long and narrow mesoloph that ends with a mesostyle at the labial border of the teeth. The backward paracone spur is short but strong and reaches the mesostyle in two out of the four specimens available. The teeth have a double metalophule with the posterior one stronger than the anterior one. Both the anterior and the posterior metalophules are nearly longitudinal and they can even form an additional longitudinal crest on their own (specimen ThyUM Thy 0-30). The posteroloph is short and connects to the posterior metalophule. It nearly reaches the metacone, enclosing a small posterosinus. The roots of these teeth are not preserved.

Cladistic analysis

The cladistic analysis including all species of *Karydomys* as well as relevant species currently placed in the genera *Democricetodon* and *Cricetodon* yielded a single most parsimonious tree with a length of 86 and a relatively high degree of homoplasy (CI = 0.512; RI = 0.806). Our results (Fig. 5) evidence two main lineages that groups separated from one another at the most

basal node. The first one corresponds to all the species of *Cricetodon* included in this analysis, which form a monophyletic group, whereas the second is formed by includes encompasses the various species of *Democricetodon* taken into account in this work and all known species of *Karydomys*. However, while *Karydomys* forms a clade within the latter lineage, *Democricetodon* constitutes an array of successive sister-species to *Karydomys*. Besides Further, two lineages diverge at the basal node of *Karydomys*: one constituted by the western Eurasiatic Eurasian species (*Karydomys wigharti + Karydomys zapfei*) and the other by the eastern Eurasiatic Eurasian ones (*Karydomys debruijni +* more derived species).

DISCUSSION

The examination of the new rodent remains from Chios has allowed to evidence the presence of revealed eight molars (Figs 2-3) belonging to a middle sized *Karydomys* (Fig. 4) but different from the molars in all theof any species of this genus known so far. *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. is morphologically close to the two known species from Karydia. However, it shows some important differences, particularly concerning the protolophule and the metalophule on the M1 and M2 and the degree of development of the mesolophids, which prevent to consider it as belonging to either of them. The presence of a double metalophule on the M2 (Fig. 6) may suggest that the new species from Chios could be, in fact, slightly older than *Karydomys symeonidisi* and *Karydomys boskosi*, in which the anterior metalophule is lost not only on the M1 but also on the M2. The absence, on the M1 of *Karydomys strati*, of the anterior protolophule, which is present in *Karydomys symeonidisi*—and the presence of a spur on the anterolophule on the M1, a primitive character absent in *Karydomys boskosi*, is consistent with this hypothesis. The presence of a posterior metalophule on the M2 of *Karydomys strati* suggest that it is more evolved than *Karydomys*

<u>K-arydomys</u> <u>dzerzhinskii</u> and <u>Karydomys K-arydomys</u> <u>debruijni</u> (Fig. 6), which are the oldest species of <u>Karydomys</u>. In addition, <u>Karydomys</u> from Chios is distinct from Middle Miocene species such as <u>Karydomys K-arydomys</u> <u>wigharti</u> and <u>Karydomys K-arydomys</u> <u>zapfei</u> in being noticeably smaller, in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1 (present in <u>Karydomys K.</u> wigharti), in having a well-developed posterior paracone spur on the M1 and M2 as well as in the presence of the ectomesolophid on the m1 (Fig. 6).

The genus Karydomys was erected by Theocharopoulos (2000) on the basis of some characters such as the presence of a small posterosinus and well-developed ectolophs on the first two upper molars (in some of the taxa), the reduction of the size of the third molars and the presence of a small, blade-like anteroconid situated very close to the protoconid and the metaconid on the first lower molar. However, as pointed out by Maridet et al. (2011), some of these characters, such as the presence of a small posterosinus, resulting from a posterior position of the metalophule, as well as the development of the ectolophs (posterior paracone spur in the present work), are not present in all the species of the genus. Therefore, Maridet et al. (2011) suggested that the diagnosis of the genus had to be revised when more material would become available. Even though we concur with Maridet et al. (2011) that there are a number of issues related to the diagnosis of the genus Karydomys, we are inclined to maintain this taxon in its current specific composition as the species of Karydomys form a monophyletic grouping in our analysis. The clade Karydomys shares indeed one exclusive synapomorphy: which is to have a slightly divided or "crest-like" anterocone on the M1 (3 (0→1)). <u>In fact, the M1 of Karydomys are ALSO characterized by a wider and flater</u> anterocone more independent from the anteroloph than those of in Democricetodon, in which it is a well-defined cusp that may fuse with the anteroloph by with wear. The presence of a short lingual anterolophid (23 $(0\rightarrow 1)$) on the m1 supports also the clade, but this is shown by someoccurs in some species of *Democricetodon* as well (e.g. *Democricetodon*

<u>D-emocricetodon</u> anatolicus of our ingroup). A very interesting synapomorphy is found in the connection of the <u>anterior</u> metalophulid <u>anterior</u> on the m1. Thus, it This crest joins the <u>a</u> distinct anterolophulid in <u>Democricetodon</u> $(24(0 \rightarrow 1))_{\underline{a}}$ whereas it but connects directly connects to the anteroconid or to a tiny anterolophulid in Karydomys $(24(1 \rightarrow 2))$. This latter synapomorphy feature is also shared by the members of the genus Cricetodon.

According to our results *Karydomys* split early into two different lineages. One constituted by the central Asiatic Asian (Karydomys debruijni and Karydomys dzerzhinskii) and Greek species (Karydomys symeonidisi, Karydomys boskosi and Karydomys strati-sp. nov.) species, which we term herein the "eastern lineage", and the other one formed by the species from Germany and France (Karydomys K-arydomys wigharti and Karydomys K-arydomys zapfei), the "western lineage". Maridet et al. (2011) had pointed out the morphological differences between the the species of Karydomys, those -from western and central Europe (France and Germany) and south-eastern Europe (Greece) on the one side, and those the species from central Asia (Kazakhstan and north-western China) on the other, on the other side. The latter were considered the least derived particularly on the basis of the morphology of the M2. Our results show a basal position of the two central Asiatie-Asian species of Karydomys (Karydomys K-arydomys debruijni and Karydomys K-arydomys dzerzhinskii) with respect to the Greek ones, but not regarding the western European species Karydomys K-arydomys wigharti and Karydomys K-arydomys zapfei, which belong to a separate lineage. The cladogram shows sister group relationships between Karydomys dzerzhinski from Kazaksthan and the clade composed by the three Greek species (Karydomys <u>Karydomys</u> symeonidisi (<u>Karydomys-Karydomys-</u> strati sp. nov. + <u>Karydomys-Karydomys</u> boskosi)). These results are consistent with the suggestion of Kordikova and de Bruijn (2001) about a close relationship between Karydomys Karydomys dzerzhinski and Karydomys Karydomys symeonidisi, with the former a plausible ancestor of the later. Our results also

show that Karydomys wigharti is sister species of Karydomys Karydomys zapfei. Mörs and Kalthoff (2004) emphasized the morphological affinities between these two species them. Some synapomorphies of the species of Karydomys for central Asia and south-eastern Europe allow for differentiating them from the taxa from western and central Europe. In particular, the presence of a short but distinct backward paracone spur on the M1 (8 (0 \rightarrow 1), a derived character state, and the presence of a well-developed ectomesolophid on the m1 (27 ($0 \rightarrow 1$)), another derived character state, are characters features that are usually lacking on the two western and central European species Karydomys wigharti and Karydomys zapfei. However, these are not clear-cut discriminators as the several M1 of Karydomys debruijini show a backward paracone spur that varies from more or less short to absent altogether, and the ectomesolophid is equally variable in the its degree of development on the m1 of in Karydomys wigharti. Besides morphology, the western and central European species are also larger than the other species of Karydomys and, indeed, Democricetodon. The grouping of the Greek species of *Karydomys* is supported by stout cusps $(2 (0 \rightarrow 1))$, which is a parallelism with the western and central European species. The Greek species also show a welldeveloped backward paracone spur on the M2 (15 (($0 \rightarrow 1$)), which is a character state incipient in Karydomys dzerzhinski.

The diagnostic characters provided by Theocharopoulos (2000) to differentiate *Karydomys* from *Democricetodon* are not valid for all taxaspecies. On one side, tThe presence of a small anteroconid, which was used to discriminate the two genera, is a character also shared seen with in various species of *Democricetodon*. On the other sideFurther, the alleged presence of better developed ectolophs in *Karydomys* than in *Democricetodon*, is actually lacking in the two western and central European members of *Karydomys* (*Karydomys* K-arydomys wigharti and Karydomys K-arydomys zapfei) but present in some species of *Democricetodon* (e.g. *Democricetodon* D-emocricetodon anatolicus),

whose which have the ectolophs are well_-developed. As mentioned above, only one exclusive synapomophy backs up the clade *Karydomys*, which is a slightly divided or "crest-like" anterocone on the M1. We have reservations about the adequacy of such a unique character to justify the legitimacy of the genus *Karydomys*. However, the differences between *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys* regarding the nature of the connection of the anterior metalophulid anterior-should also be taken into account. The species currently attributed to *Karydomys* may as well be seen as pertaining to *Democricetodon*, as derived members of the genus. At this point, however, we refrain for formally synonymising *Karydomys* with *Democricetodon* given the incomplete nature of our ingroup. Should a future, more comprehensive, phylogenetic analysis of the species of *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys* yield a pattern of results in line with our own (i.e. *Democricetodon* forming a paraphyletic array of species relative to a *Karydomys* clade) then the merits of the recognition of the genus *Karydomys* will have to be seriously questioned. In any case, the close relationships between the genera *Karydomys* and *Democricetodon* suspected by Theocharopoulos (2000) are confirmed.

The teeth of the taxa belonging to *Cricetodon* are morphologically quite different from those of *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys*. Our cladogram clearly supports the monophyly of *Cricetodon*. The species of *Cricetodon* included in the ingroup share some exclusive synapomorphies. They have the anterocone strongly divided $(3\ (0\rightarrow 1))$ and a short mesoloph $(9\ (0\rightarrow 1))$ on the M1. Their m1 are characterized by having a large anteroconid $(22(0\rightarrow 1))$ and by usually lacking the lingual anterolophid $(23\ (0\rightarrow 1))$. With respect to the m2, the less derived members of the group they have a weak lingual anterolophid in the less derived members of the group $(28\ (0\rightarrow 1))$, which completely disappear in the more evolved members representatives of the clade $(28\ (1\rightarrow 2))$. Their m3 show a more or less circular protosinusid $(31\ (0\rightarrow 1))$ instead of having it retracted and directed forward as is the case in

Democricetodon and Karydomys. However, to confirm or refute the monophyly of this clade, a more comprehensive cladistic analysis that would include all the species belonging to Cricetodon and closely related genera such as Hispanomys or Byzantiniathe subfamily Cricetodontinae is necessary.

CONCLUSION

The new species Karydomys strati sp. nov. has been erected in this work to accommodate new remains of Karydomys recently recovered from the Miocene of Chios. According to our phylogenetic analysis, the genus Karydomys split early into two different lineages, an "eastern stock" that includes the central Asian and Greek species and a "western lineage", which is constituted by the western and central European species of the genus. Karydomys strati belongs to the so called "eastern lineage" stock". This quite relatively large—sized democricetodontine rodent is characterized by having a labial spur on the anteriolophule and the lacking of the anterior protolophule on the M1 and as well as by the presence of a double metalophule on the M2. This latter character suggests that Karydomys strati is more evolved than Karydomys Karydomys dzerzhinskii and Karydomys Karydomys debruijni, which are are both lackingdevoid of the posterior metalophule, but less evolved than the Greek species Karydomys K. symeonidisi and Karydomys K. boskosi, which are are both lacking the anterior metalophule.

The presence of *Karydomys* is of interest from a biostratigraphical point of view. The Keramia Formation has been usually given a Middle Miocene age. However, the evolutionary stage of the new species of *Karydomys* that it yields suggests that the its stratigraphical level it comes from could be, in fact, slightly older than those from which *Karydomys K-arydomys* symeonidisi and *Karydomys K-arydomys boskosi* were collected (MN4). The lowermost part

of the Keramia Formation may, therefore, well-be late Early Miocene in age (MN4), which would be in accordance with the latest published magnetostratigraphical data of the area.

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DATA ARCHIVING STATEMENT

ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/References/81D56B1D-2B00-4FCB-90D7-2C1D15EA0B7B

Data for this study are available in the Dryad Digital Repository;

http://datadryad.org/review?doi=doi:10.5061/dryad.m086rm8 Jplease note that the

data for this paper are not yet published and this temporary link should not be

shared without the express permission of the author]

This published work and the nomenclatural act it contains, have been registered in

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3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5	012345678901234567890123456-

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Appendix S1
Character list used in this analysis
1-Size of the M1: (0) small, 1.2-1.8 mm; (1) medium size, 1.8-2.6 mm; (2) large >2.6 mm
2-Cusps: (0) slender; (1) stout
<u>M1</u>
3-Anterocone: (0) single; (1) slightly divided or crest like; (2) divided
4-Anterolabial cingulum; (0) present; (1) absent
5-Labial spur of the anterocone: (0) absent; (1) present
6-Labial spur on the anterolophule: (0) absent; (1) present
7-Anterior protolophule: (0) absent; (1) present
8-Backward paracone spur: (0) very weak or absent; (1) short but distinct; (2) long
9-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium length; (2) absent
10-Metalophule: (0) anterior; (1) posterior
11-Posteroloph: (0) long; (1) continues beyond the metalophule; (2) does not continue beyond
the metaloph; (3) absent
<u>12- Roots: (0) three; (1) four</u>
<u>M2</u>
13-Anterior protolophule: (0) complete; (1) weak; (2) absent
14-Posterior protolophule: (0) absent; (1) weak; (2) complete
15-Backward paracone spur: (0) absent; (1) present
16-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium sized; (2) absent
17-Metaloph: (0) anterior; (1) double; (2) posterior
<u>18-Roots: (0) three; (1) four</u>

<u>m3</u>

19-Relative size: (0) large, LM1/LM3 <1.7; (1) small, LM1/LM3 >1.7				
20-Neoentoloph: (0) absent; (1) present				
21-Mesoloph: (0) absent; (1) short; (2) long				
<u>ml</u>				
22-Anteroconid: (0) small; (1) large				
23-Lingual anterolophid: (0) well developed; (1) short (2) absent				
24- Anterior metalophulid: (0) absent; (1) more or less transversely directed and connected to				
the anterolophulid (2) very anteriorly directed and generally connected to the anteroconid				
25-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) mostly absent				
26-Mesolophid: (0) absent; (1) short to medium length (length<1/3 of the distance between				
ectolophid and lingual border); (2) long to medium length				
27-Ectomesolophid: (0) very weak or absent; (1) present				
<u>m2</u>				
28-Lingual anterolophid: (0) developed; (1) very weak or not developed				
29-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) weak or absent				
30-Mesolophid: (0) short (length<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (1)				
long				

31-Protosinusid: (0) retracted and directed forward; (1) circular

32-Mesolophid: (0) present; (1) absent

Figure captions

TEXT-FIG. 1. Simplified geological map of Chios Island (redrawn from Kondopoulou *et al.* 1993) and location of the fossiliferous site Thy 0.

TEXT-FIG. 2. Lower cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, ThyUM Thy 0-39, right m1. B, ThyUM Thy 0-5, right m2. C, ThyUM Thy 0-2, right m2. D, ThyUM Thy 0-145, right m3. E-H. CT-Sean scan images of ThyUM Thy 0-39, right m1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-Seanscan images views of ThyUM Thy 0-5, right m2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-Seanscan images views of ThyUM Thy 0-2, right m2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-Sean-scan images views of ThyUM Thy 0-145, right m3. Q, occlusal view; R, lingual view; S, labial view. The scale bar equals 1 mm for the SEM images (CT-Sean-scan images have been approximately scaled).

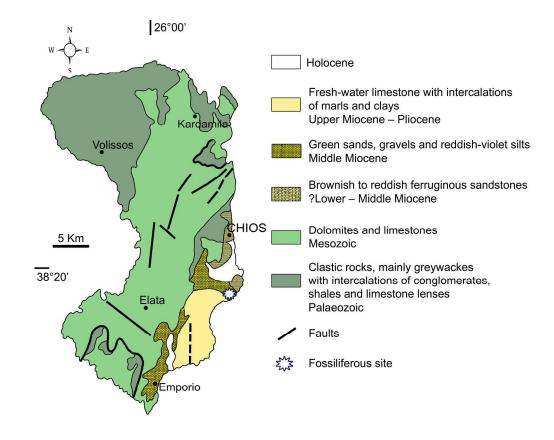
TEXT-FIG. 3. Upper cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, ThyUM Thy 0-9, left M1; B, ThyUM Thy 0-30, left M2; ThyUM Thy 0-48 left M2; ThyUM Thy 0-54, left M2 (broken). E-H. CT-Sean-scan images of ThyUM Thy 0-9, left M1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-Sean-scan images views of ThyUM Thy 0-30, left M2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-Sean-scan views images of ThyUM Thy 0-48 left M2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-Sean-scan images views of ThyUM Thy 0-54, left M2. Q, occlusal view; R, labial view;

S, anterior view. The scale bar equals 1_mm for the SEM images (CT-Sean-scan_images have been approximately scaled).

TEXT-FIG. 4. Length/width scatter diagram of the two first upper and lower molars of the different species belonging to the genus *Karydomys*.

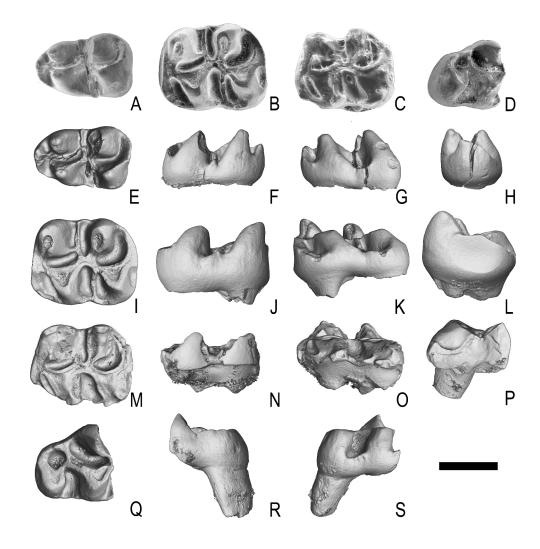
TEXT-FIG. 5. Cladogram showing the relationships among all known species of *Karydomys* as well as selected ones of *Democricetodon* and *Cricetodon* and the phylogenetic position of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. (data matrix in Dryad Digital Data Repository: López-Antoñanzas et al. 2018Supplementary File 2). Nodes show Bremer and Relative Bremer Indices are showed at the appropriate nodes.

TEXT-FIG. 6. Evolutionary stage of various species of *Karydomys* with some important structures signaled. A-C, *K.—arydomys_dzerzhinskii* (taken from Kordikova & de Bruijn, 2001); D-F, *Karydomys strati* sp. nov.; G-I, *K.—arydomys_wigharti* (taken from Mörs & Kalthoff, 2004). The scale is not included as the morphology only is considered.

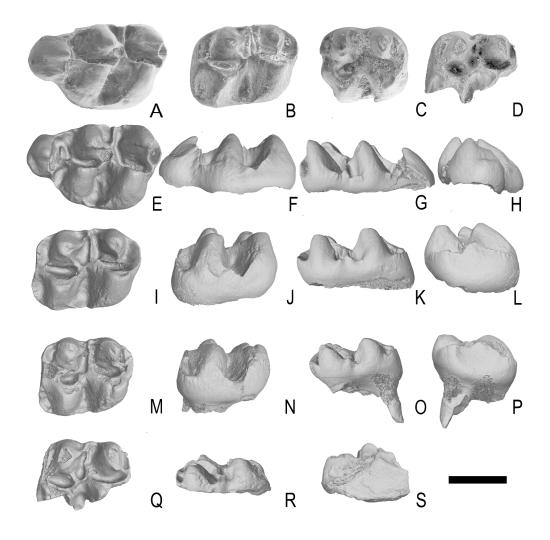


Simplified geological map of Chios Island (redrawn from Kondopoulou et al. 1993) and location of the fossiliferous site Thy 0.

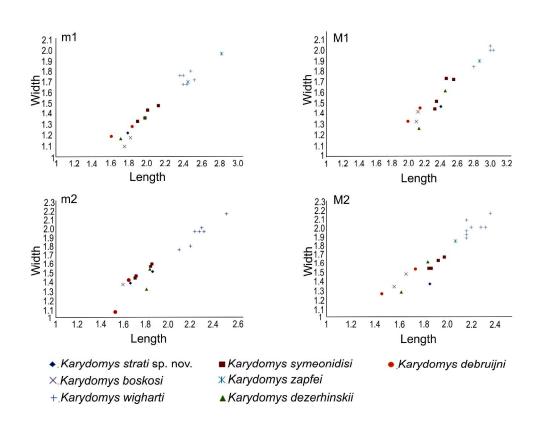
209x175mm (300 x 300 DPI)



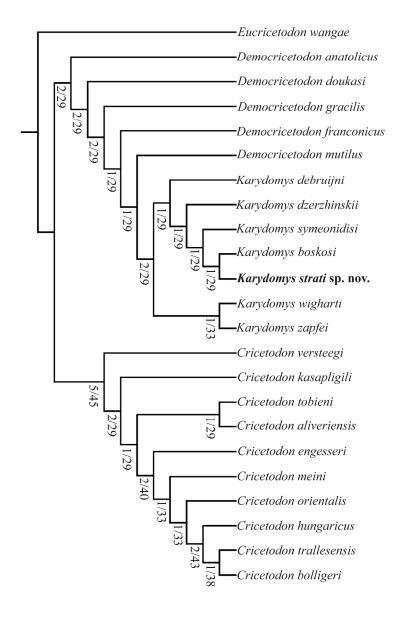
Lower cheek teeth of Karydomys strati sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, UM Thy 0-39, right m1. B, UM Thy 0-5, right m2. C, UM Thy 0-2, right m2. D, UM Thy 0-145, right m3. E-H. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-39, right m1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-5, right m2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-2, right m2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-145, right m3. Q, occlusal view; R, lingual view; S, labial view. The scale bar equals 1mm for the SEM images (CT-scan images have been approximately scaled).



Upper cheek teeth of Karydomys strati sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, UM Thy 0-9, left M1; B, UM Thy 0-30, left M2; UM Thy 0-48 left M2; UM Thy 0-54, left M2 (broken). E-H. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-9, left M1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-30, left M2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-48 left M2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-54, left M2. Q, occlusal view; R, labial view; S, anterior view. The scale bar equals 1 mm for the SEM images (CT-scan images have been approximately scaled).

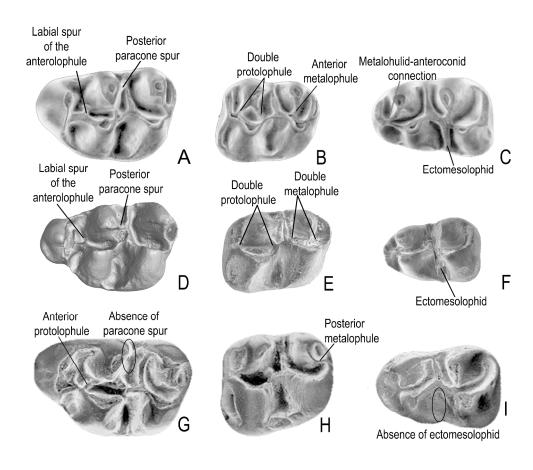


Length/width scatter diagram of the two first upper and lower molars of the different species belonging to the genus Karydomys.



Cladogram showing the relationships among all known species of Karydomys as well as selected Democricetodon and Cricetodon and the phylogenetic position of Karydomys strati sp. nov. (matrix in Supplementary File 2). Nodes show Bremer and Relative Bremer Indices.

203x276mm (600 x 600 DPI)



Evolutionary stage of various species of Karydomys with some important structures signaled. A-C, Karydomys dzerzhinskii (taken from Kordikova & de Bruijn, 2001); D-F, Karydomys strati sp. nov.; G-I, Karydomys wigharti (taken from Mörs & Kalthoff, 2004). The scale is not included as the morphology only is considered.

			Length	Width
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-39	m1	1.79	1.224
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-2	m2	1.667	1.385
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-5	m2	1.865	1.513
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-145	m3 (broken)	/	/
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-9	M1	2.398	1.477
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-30	M2	1.857	1.372
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-48	M2 (eroded)	1.527	1.316
Karydomys strati	Thy 0-54	M2 (broken)	/	/

Appendix S1

Character list used in this analysis

```
1-Size: (0) small, 1.2-1.8 mm; (1) medium size, 1.8-2.6 mm; (2) large >2.6 mm
```

2-Cusps: (0) slender; (1) stout

M1

- 3-Anterocone (0) single; (1) slightly divided or crest like; (2) divided
- 4-Anterolabial cingulum (0)present; (1)absent
- 5-Labial spur of the anterocone: (0) absent; (1) present
- 6-Labial spur on the anterolophule: (0) absent; (1) present
- 7-Anterior Protolophule: (0) absent; (1) present
- 8-Backward paracone spur: (0) very weak or absent; (1) short but distinct; (2) long
- 9-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium length; (2) absent
- 10-Metalophule: (0) anterior; (1) posterior
- 11-Posteroloph: (0) long; (1) continues beyond the metalophule; (2) does not continue beyond

the metaloph; (3) absent

12- Roots: (0) 3; (1) 4

M2

- 13-Anterior Protolophule: (0) complete; (1) weak; (2) absent
- 14-Posterior Protolophule: (0) absent; (1) weak; (2) complete
- 15-Backward paracone spur: (0) absent; (1) present
- 16-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium sized; (2) absent
- 17-Metaloph: (0) anterior; (1) double; (2) posterior
- 18-Roots: (0) three; (1) four

M3

```
19-Relative size: (0) large, LM1/LM3 <1.7; (1) small, LM1/LM3 >1.7
20-Neoentoloph: (0) absent; (1) present
21-Mesoloph: (0) absent; (1) short; (2) long
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m1

- 22-Anteroconid: (0) small; (1) large
- 23-Lingual anterolophid: (0) well-developed; (1) short (2) absent
- 24-Metalophulid anterior: (0) absent; (1) connected to the anterolophid (2) connected to the anteroconid
- 25-Metalophulid posterior: (0) present; (1) mostly absent
- 26-m1-Mesolophid (0) absent; (1) short to medium length (length<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (2) long to medium length
- 27-Ectomesolophid: (0) very weak or absent; (1) present

m2

- 28-Lingual anterolophid: (0) developed; (1) very weak or not developed
- 29-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) weak or absent
- 30-Mesolophid: (0) short (lenght<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (1) long

m3

- 31-Protosinusid: (0) retracted and directed forward; (1) circular
- 32-Mesolophid: (0) present; (1) absent