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# 3D models related to the publication: "Molar wear in house mice: insight into diet preferences at an ecological time scale?"

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#### Abstract

This contribution contains 3D models of upper molar rows of house mice (*Mus musculus domesticus*) belonging to Western European commensal and Sub-Antarctic feral populations. These two groups are characterized by different patterns of wear and alignment of the three molars along the row, related to contrasted masticatory demand in relation with their diet. These models are analyzed in the following publication: Renaud et al 2023, "Molar wear in house mice, insight into diet preferences at an ecological time scale?", https://doi.org/10.1093/biolinnean/blad091.

Keywords: dental functional morphology, mastication, Mus musculus domesticus, Sub-Antarctic environment

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#### INTRODUCTION

This contribution presents 3D models of molar rows for 30 specimens of house mice (*Mus musculus domesticus*, see Table 1 and Fig. 1.). From a source area in Western Europe, the house mouse has been unintentionally introduced in numerous environments worldwide. Their arrival on various Sub-Antarctic islands is related to the whaler activity. Consequently, on the Kerguelen Archipelago, they were reported as already abundant by the end of the 19th century. On these remote and inhospitable environments, the house mouse thrives as a feral species that incorporates an important component of invertebrates in its diet (Le Roux et al., 2002), thus showing a pronounced shift in the exploited resources compared to commensal populations. This has consequences on their jaw and incisor morphology, showing an optimization for incisor biting rather than mastication at the molars (Renaud et al., 2015; Renaud et al., 2019).

The models presented here include a commensal population from Brittany (Tourch, N = 10) as well as mice from the Guillou island on the Kerguelen Archipelago, corresponding to two years of trapping (1993, N = 9 and 2009, N = 11). This sampling was complemented by previously published specimens from a commensal population near Lyon, and their lab-bred relatives (Savriama et al., 2022), in order to characterize the consequence of the shift in diet on the molar crown geometry.

For each specimen, the upper molar row was segmented, including the roots. Starting from this model, the first upper molar was manually delimited by removing the contact with the second molar. On these two models, the roots were discarded to focus on the crown only by using previously described templates (Savriama et al., 2022). A truncated template of the first

upper molar was further applied, with the top of the cusps cut to mimic an advanced degree of wear, in order to mitigate the effect of tooth abrasion on the morphological signal (Ledevin et al., 2016). These procedures resulted in three dense sets of sliding semi-landmarks describing (1) the erupted part of the upper molar row; (2) the crown of the first upper molar; (3) the truncated first upper molar. The molar geometry was analyzed using geometric morphometrics applied to the corresponding 3D coordinates.

The lab-bred mice served as reference showing a decreased rate of wear compared to their commensal relatives, due to reduced mastication in mice fed *ad libitum*. Sub-Antarctic mice from Guillou island displayed a decrease in the rate of molar wear, in agreement with an optimization towards incisor biting to seize preys. Lab offspring and Sub-Antarctic mice were further characterized by straight molar rows, whereas in commensal mice, the erupting third molar was deviated away from the longitudinal alignment with the other molars, due to masticatory loadings. The "wear-free" first upper molar, in contrast, only described differences related to the phylogenetic history of the populations.

Quantifying changes in molar geometry, especially by considering the whole molar row including the relative alignment of the teeth, could thus contribute to trace subtle diet variations, and provide a direct insight into the constraints during mastication.

#### METHODS

The skulls were scanned at a cubic voxel resolution of 12  $\mu$ m. Mice from Tourch were scanned on the General Electric (GE) Nanotom microtomograph ( $\mu$ CT) of the AniRA-ImmOs plat-

G09_06Guillou 2009F10.0G09_10Guillou 2009F16.0G09_15Guillou 2009F11.0G09_16Guillou 2009M14.0G09_17Guillou 2009M11.0G09_21Guillou 2009F21.0G09_26Guillou 2009F25.0G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0G09_65Guillou 2009M14.0	
G09_15 Guillou 2009 F 11.0   G09_16 Guillou 2009 M 14.0   G09_17 Guillou 2009 M 11.0   G09_21 Guillou 2009 F 21.0   G09_26 Guillou 2009 M 25.0   G09_27 Guillou 2009 F 20.0   G09_29 Guillou 2009 F 13.0	
G09_16Guillou 2009M14.0G09_17Guillou 2009M11.0G09_21Guillou 2009F21.0G09_26Guillou 2009M25.0G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0	
G09_17Guillou 2009M11.0G09_21Guillou 2009F21.0G09_26Guillou 2009M25.0G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0	
G09_21Guillou 2009F21.0G09_26Guillou 2009M25.0G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0	
G09_26Guillou 2009M25.0G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0	
G09_27Guillou 2009F20.0G09_29Guillou 2009F13.0	
G09_29 Guillou 2009 F 13.0	
G09.65 Guillou 2009 M 14.0	
G09_66 Guillou 2009 M 12.0	
G93_03 Guillou 1993 F 12.6	
G93_04 Guillou 1993 F 11.0	
G93_10 Guillou 1993 F 15.7	
G93_11 Guillou 1993 M 14.5	
G93_13 Guillou 1993 F 14.0	
G93_14 Guillou 1993 F 13.9	
G93_15 Guillou 1993 F 10.2	
G93_24 Guillou 1993 M 21.0	
G93_25 Guillou 1993 M 33.5	
Tourch_7819TourchF12.0	
Tourch_7821TourchF11.0	
Tourch_7839TourchM9.0	
Tourch_7873TourchM13.0	
Tourch_7877TourchF11.0	
Tourch_7922TourchM15.0	
Tourch_7923TourchF16.0	
Tourch_7925TourchM13.0	
Tourch_7927TourchF9.0	
Tourch_7932TourchM9.0	

**Table 1.** Label, population, sex and weight of the specimens. G09\_26 correspond to a "senescent" specimens with highly worn teeth. Guillou specimens are stored as laboratory collection at the LBBE (Laboratoire of Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive, University Lyon 1, France). Tourch specimens are stored in the CBGP - Small Mammal Collection, https://doi.org/10.15454/WWNUPO, Centre de Biologie pour la Gestion des Population, Univ Montpellier, CIRAD, INRAE, Institut Agro, IRD, Montpellier, France).

form of the SFR Biosciences, Ecole Normale Supérieure (Lyon, France). Skulls from Guillou were scanned at the PACEA laboratory (Bordeaux, France) using a similar equipment (GE v tome x s). The scanning parameters were as follows: 100 kV, 70 $\mu$ A, 3000 projections at 360° with Cu filter. For each mouse, the right upper molar row was delimited using Avizo (v. 9.1—Visualization Science Group, FEI Company), except for the specimen G93-24 for which the left molar row was considered instead. In most cases, an automatic threshold was sufficient to isolate the molar row from the surrounding bone and generate a surface including the roots; in a few cases, connections with the bone had to be manually delimited. The 3D surfaces are provided in .ply format, and can therefore be opened with a wide range of freeware.

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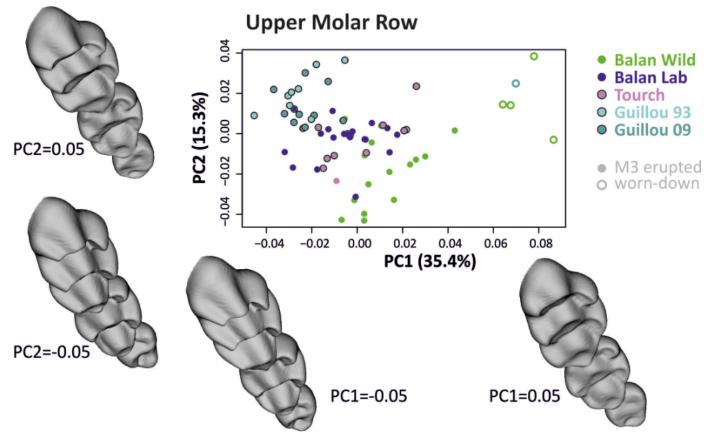
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**Figure 1.** Morphospace depicting the shape variation of the upper molar row in a set of house mouse populations, including Western European commensal mice (Balan, Tourch) and mice from Guillou island (Kerguelen Archipelago). The first two axes of a PCA on the aligned coordinates are represented. Along each axis, visualizations of molar shape corresponding to PC scores = 0.05 and -0.05 are depicted. Circles with dark outline: models deposited in the present contribution. Open circles: highly abraded molars.