

A Revision of the Genus *Uromys* Peters, 1867 (Muridae: Mammalia) with Descriptions of Two New Species

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ABSTRACT. *Uromys* Peters, 1867 is re-defined so that it is monophyletic. The clade includes nine species placed in two monophyletic subgenera: *U. (Cyromys)* includes the species *porculus*, *rex* and *imperator*; *U. (Uromys)* includes the species *anak*, *neobritannicus*, *hadrourus*, *caudimaculatus*, *emmae* n.sp. and *boeadii* n.sp. *Uromys (Cyromys)* includes more plesiomorphic species, which are all restricted to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Species of *U. (Uromys)* are more derived, as in their possession of greatly simplified molars, and in having the number of interdental ridges of the soft palate greatly multiplied. The genus is widespread in Melanesia and northern Australia. Three distinct subspecies of *U. caudimaculatus*, and three of *U. anak* (one new) are recognised. *Uromys boeadii* n.sp., from Biak Island, and *Uromys emmae* n.sp., from Owi Island, both in Geelvinck Bay, are newly described.

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The generic name *Uromys* was proposed by Peters, 1867 for *Mus macropus* Gray, 1866. *Mus macropus* is a primary homonym (*nec* Hodgson), and thus the first available name for the species is *Hapalotis caudimaculatus* Krefft, 1867. Until 1922 all mosaic-tailed rats from Australasia were referred to the genera *Uromys* or *Mus*. In 1922, however, Thomas divided the species previously assigned to *Uromys* between three genera: *Uromys*, *Melomys* and *Solomys*. He defined the members of his newly restricted genus *Uromys* as follows: size large (hindfoot length greater than 52 mm,

skull longer than 70 mm), tail long, incisive foramina short, bony palate extends to behind M³, incisors deep, and ridges of the soft palate duplicated and up to 12 in number. He included in *Uromys* only taxa currently recognised as belonging within the species *caudimaculatus* and *anak*.

Rümmler (1938) was the next major reviser to deal with the genus as a whole. He differentiated the species of *Uromys* from other New Guinean murids by their possession of a high infraorbital canal which narrows to a slit-like base, wide maxillary plate, simple molars and