

A replacement name for the endemic *Rattus* (Muridae, Mammalia) of the island of Obi, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: The name *Rattus obiensis* Fabre, Portela Miguez, Holden, Fitriana, Semiadi, Musser, & Helgen, was recently applied to a newly discovered species of *Rattus* known to date only from the Moluccan island of Obi in Indonesia. However, this name is preoccupied by *Rattus rattus obiensis* Sody, 1941, a name applied to a commensal rat and currently recognized as a synonym of *Rattus tanezumi* Temminck, 1844. A replacement name, *Rattus ombirah* Fabre *et al.*, 2024. nom. nov., is here proposed for the endemic *Rattus* of Obi.

Keywords: Wallacea, Muridae, *Rattus*, homonymy, new name

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Introduction

Our colleague Jelle Zijlstra has pointed out to us that the name *Rattus obiensis*, recently proposed by Fabre *et al.* (2023) for a new species of *Rattus* endemic to the island of Obi in Indonesia, is pre-occupied by the name *obiensis* Sody, 1941. Sody (1941: 268) originally erected *obiensis* as a subspecies of *Rattus rattus*, diagnosing it among other Indo-Malayan commensal house rats by its comparatively “small teeth and short tail”. Sody’s holotype of *obiensis* (now in the Naturalis Museum in Leiden, RMNH 23179) is a member of what Aplin *et al.* (2011, 2023) have labelled the “*Rattus rattus* species complex”, which includes *Rattus tanezumi* Temminck, 1844, to which Musser and Carleton (2005: 1490) allocated *obiensis* as a synonym. The name *Rattus obiensis* Fabre *et al.*, 2023 is a junior homonym according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature ICZN (1999: Article 53.3) and requires the establishment of a replacement name. In accordance with Article 60.3 of the ICZN (1999), we propose a new name.

Systematics

Order Rodentia Bowdich, 1821

Family Muridae Illiger, 1811

Subfamily Murinae Illiger, 1811

Rattus Fischer, 1803

Rattus ombirah nom. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:F0602F15-9515-428A-89F6-3F003D1EB9C6

Replacement name for *Rattus obiensis* Fabre, Portela Miguez, Holden, Fitriana, Semiadi, Musser, & Helgen, 2023, a junior homonym of *Rattus rattus obiensis* Sody, 1941

Holotype. The holotype is MZB 38231, in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense. See Fabre *et al.* (2023) for further details.

Type locality. The type locality is located on Gunung Sere, in the southwest of the island of Obi (North Maluku Province, Indonesia); see Fabre *et al.* (2023) for further details. This species is known only from the island of Obi to date.

Etymology. The specific name is derived from Ombirah an alternate name for the island of Obi.

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