

A New Species of Bandicoot in the Genus *Peroryctes* (Marsupialia: Peramelemorphia) from Kwiyawagi, West Baliem Valley of Papua Province, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT. Many bandicoot species occur in New Guinea and surrounding islands. Here, a new species of *Peroryctes* is described from the West Baliem River Valley, western New Guinea (Papua Province, Indonesia). Morphometric analyses, qualitative morphological examination, and formal morphological phylogenetic assessment clearly distinguish this new taxon from the two currently recognized species of *Peroryctes*, *P. raffrayanus* and *P. broadbentii*. Our attempt to recover molecular data for this new taxon recovered poor quality sequences insufficient for analysis. Little is yet known about the basic biology of this new species, but it is rare and may be threatened.

Introduction

New Guinea and its surrounding islands are home to two families (Peroryctidae and Peramelidae) and five genera of peramelemorphians. These include the peroryctid genera *Echymipera* (5 species), *Rhynchoemeles* (1 species), *Microperoryctes* (5 species), *Peroryctes* (2 species) and the peramelid genus *Isoodon* (1 species; Warburton &

Travouillon, 2016; Travouillon & Phillips, 2018). The taxonomy of many New Guinean taxa remains unresolved, with more species expected to be discovered in ongoing fieldwork, studies of museum material, and through taxonomic revision (Helgen, 2007; Westerman *et al.*, 2012; Warburton & Travouillon, 2016; Travouillon & Phillips, 2018).

Keywords: Bandicoot; Indonesia; New Guinea; morphological systematics; taxonomy; new species

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