

A NEW SUBFAMILY OF PRIMITIVE POCKET MICE (RODENTIA, HETEROMYIDAE) FROM THE MIDDLE TERTIARY OF NORTH AMERICA

William W. Korth

Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, 928 Whalen Road, Penfield, New York 14526

ABSTRACT

A number of genera of heteromyids from the middle Tertiary of North America that were previously assigned to different subfamilies are allocated to a new subfamily Mioheteromyinae. The genera included are *Peridiomys* Matthew, *Mookomys* Wood, *Trogomys* Reeder, *Schizodontomys* Rensberger and two new genera, *Mioheteromys* and *Balantiomys*. These genera are characterized by primitive cranial and dental morphologies relative to the Heteromyinae, Perognathinae, and Dipodomyinae, but are more advanced than the Harrymyinae.

The species of these genera are reviewed. Three new species are described: *Mioheteromys amplissimus*, *Balantiomys nebraskensis* and ?*B. meridionalis*, all from the Miocene of Nebraska. The problematical *Diprionomys agrarius* Wood is referred to *Mioheteromys* and *Diprionomys oregonensis* Gazin is named as the type species of *Balantiomys*.

The Mioheteromyinae are a primitive group of heteromyids from which no other subfamilies can be definitely derived.