# 1 Muroidea

**Muroidea** is a large <u>superfamily</u> of <u>rodents</u>. It includes <u>hamsters</u>, <u>gerbils</u>, true <u>mice</u> and <u>rats</u>, and many other relatives. They occupy a vast variety of <u>habitats</u> on every continent except <u>Antarctica</u>. Some authorities have placed all members of this group into a single family, <u>Muridae</u>, due to difficulties in determining how the <u>subfamilies</u> are related to one another. The following <u>taxonomy</u> is based on recent well-supported <u>molecular phylogenies</u>.

Fossils ranges Middle Eocene – Recent.

The muroids are classified in 6 families, 19 subfamilies, around 280 genera and at least 1300 species.

### 1.1 SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Superfamily: Muroidea

## 1.2 TAXONOMY OF THE CLADE **EUMUROIDA** - TYPICAL MUROIDS

#### 1.2.1 Family Calomyscidae

1.2.1.1 <u>Subfamily Calomyscinae (mouse-like hamsters)</u>

## 1.2.2 Family Nesomyidae

- 1.2.2.1 <u>Subfamily Cricetomyinae</u> (pouched rats and mice)
- 1.2.2.2 Subfamily Dendromurinae (African climbing mice, gerbil mice, fat mice and forest mice)
- 1.2.2.3 Subfamily Mystromyinae (white-tailed rat)
- 1.2.2.4 Subfamily Nesomyinae (Malagasy rats and mice)
- 1.2.2.5 Subfamily Petromyscinae (rock mice and the climbing swamp mouse)

## 1.2.3 Family Cricetidae

- 1.2.3.1 Subfamily Arvicolinae (voles, lemmings and muskrat)
- 1.2.3.2 Subfamily Cricetinae (true hamsters)
- 1.2.3.3 <u>Subfamily Neotominae (North American rats and mice)</u>
- 1.2.3.4 <u>Subfamily Sigmodontinae (New World rats and mice)</u>
- 1.2.3.5 Subfamily Tylomyinae

#### 1.2.4 Family Muridae

- 1.2.4.1 Subfamily Deomyinae (spiny mice, brush furred mice, link rat)
- 1.2.4.2 Subfamily Gerbillinae (gerbils, jirds and sand rats)
- 1.2.4.3 <u>Subfamily Lophiomyinae (crested rat)</u>
- 1.2.4.4 Subfamily Murinae (Old World rats and mice including vlei rats)

