

1 Muridae

Muridae is the largest family of [mammals](#). It contains over 600 species found naturally throughout Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. They have been introduced worldwide. The group includes true [mice](#) and [rats](#), [gerbils](#), and relatives.

The family name Muridae is sometimes used in a broader sense to include all members of the superfamily [Muroidea](#).

The Murids are classified in 4 [subfamilies](#), around 140 [genera](#) and approximately 650 [species](#). Fossils ranges Early Miocene – Recent.

1.1 SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

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

1.2 TAXONOMY: SUB-FAMILIES

- 1.2.1 [Deomyinae](#) (spiny mice, brush furred mice, link rat)
- 1.2.2 [Gerbillinae](#) ([gerbils](#), jirds and sand rats)
- 1.2.3 [Leimacomyinae](#) ([Togo Mouse](#))
- 1.2.4 [Lophiomyinae](#) ([Crested Rat](#))
- 1.2.5 [Murinae](#) (Old World [rats](#) and mice including the [vlei rats](#))

1.3 REFERENCES

- Jansa, S. A. and M. Weksler. 2004. Phylogeny of muroid rodents: relationships within and among major lineages as determined by IRBP gene sequences. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 31:256-276.
- Michaux, J., A. Reyes, and F. Catzeflis. 2001. Evolutionary history of the most speciose mammals: molecular phylogeny of muroid rodents. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 17:280-293.
- Stepan, S. J., R. A. Adkins, and J. Anderson. 2004. Phylogeny and divergence date estimates of rapid radiations in muroid rodents based on multiple nuclear genes. *Systematic Biology*, 53:533-553.

