New species of *Karydomys* (Rodentia) from the Miocene of Chios Island (Greece) and phylogenetic relationships of this rare democricetodontine genus

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**NEW SPECIES OF KARYDOMYS (RODENTIA) FROM THE
MIOCENE OF CHIOS ISLAND (GREECE) AND PHYLOGENETIC
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GENUS**

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NEW SPECIES OF *KARYDOMYS* (RODENTIA) FROM THE MIOCENE OF CHIOS ISLAND (GREECE) AND PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THIS RARE DEMOCRICETODONTINE GENUS

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Abstract: *Karydomys* is a rare and little diversified democricetodontine, of which only six species are currently recognised. This group of rodents is first recorded known since in the Early Miocene (MN3) in China and spread quickly after to Kazakhstan and Greece (MN 4). *Karydomys* reached south-western and central Europe by early Middle Miocene times (MN5), where it became extinct shortly thereafter (MN6). New findings from the Miocene of Chios Island (north-eastern Aegean Sea) reveal the presence of a new species of *Karydomys* in the Keramia Formation. *Karydomys* ~~strati~~ sp. nov. is characterized by the presence of a labial spur on the anterolophule, the lack of anterior protolophule on the M1 and by the presence of a double metalophule on the M2. A cladistics analysis involving all the species of *Karydomys* and some closely related species of *Democricetodon* and *Cricetodon* has been carried out. The results show that *Karydomys* split early into two different lineages, an “eastern stock” , which that includes the central Asian (*Karydomys* ~~debruijini~~ and *Karydomys* ~~dzerzhinskii~~) and Greek (*Karydomys* ~~symeonidisi~~, *Karydomys* ~~boskosi~~ and *Karydomys* ~~strati sp. nov.~~) species, and a “western lineage”, which is constituted by the western and central European species (*Karydomys* ~~wigharti~~ and *Karydomys* ~~zapfei~~). The evolutionary stage of *Karydomys strati* ~~sp. nov.~~ suggests that the lowermost part of the Keramia Formation, usually attributed to the Middle Miocene, is older than previously thought.

Key words: Mammalia, Cricetidae, *Karydomys*, phylogeny cladistics, taxonomy, Miocene, Chios

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INTRODUCTION

Asia Minor has been an important area for the exchange of faunas between Europe, Asia and Africa, especially during the ~~early~~-Early Miocene (~~Rogl~~Rögl, 1999; Koufos et al, 2005). At that time, important dispersals from the East occurred through that area, deeply transforming the mammalian composition of Europe (Van der Made 1999; Agustí et al 2001). The faunal changes were particularly important for rodents, since the entrance of “modern” cricetids in Europe at the end of the Early Miocene disrupted the structure of communities ~~at the end of the Early Miocene~~, which, had been till then, were dominated by eomyids and glirids until then (Daams & Van der Meulen, 1984; Van der Meulen & Daams, 1992; Agustí et al 2001). The ~~entrance~~-appearance of cricetids in Europe was, ~~nevertheless,~~ not the result of an isolated single dispersal event migration but instead occurred in a succession of eventsseveral successive waves, as shown by the timing of arrival of the three main groups of cricetids, the Democricetodontinae, Megacricetodontinae and Cricetodontinae (De Bruijn et al 1992; Theocharopoulos 2000; Van den Hoek Ostende et al 2015; Oliver & Peláez-Campomanes 2016). In order to fully understand ~~all thesesuch~~ faunal ~~migrationsinterchanges~~, it is important to improve our knowledge of the fossil record from key areas and develop phylogenetic hypotheses ~~of~~-about the taxa involved in a robust chronological framework. In this way, the fossil record of small mammals from the ~~early~~-Early and ~~middle~~-Middle Miocene of the north-eastern Aegean island of Chios, at the crossroad between Anatolia and south-eastern Europe, is of key-critical importance for the establishment of a more precise biogeographic framework.

In the summer of 2010, two of us (RLA and FK) prospected in Chios Island. After sampling various levels in the Michalos’ pit and its surroundings, they were able to locate two layers with Miocene vertebrates (López-Antoñanzas & Knoll, 2011). The higher fossiliferous horizon was an arenaceous stratum that yielded only a cranial fragment of a

large indeterminate mammal. ~~Nevertheless~~However, the ~~a~~ lower in the Keramia Formation
~~one was a~~ thin argillaceous lens ~~in the Keramia Formation~~ that produced a diverse
vertebrate fauna after screen-washing and sorting, which motivated a return to the site in the
summer of 2012 and the exploitation of the lens to near ~~its~~ exhaustion. Altogether, over two
metric tons of rock were processed, obtaining as a result nearly 200 teeth of small mammals.
In fact, even though remains of large mammals (comprising a phalange of an indeterminate
ruminant, a possible tooth fragment of *Cainotherium* and another of *Sanitherium*) and
reptilian jaw and osteoderm fragments were retrieved from this new spot, rodents and, to a
lesser extent, lagomorphs and insectivores are best represented by far. Preliminary
identification of the lagomorphs suggests the presence of *Albertona*. The insectivore record
consists of galericines. Rodents include a wide range of taxa belonging to cricetids, glirids,
sciurids and ctenodactylids. Among them, cricetids are the most abundant, in particular
species belonging to genera usually present in the eastern Mediterranean region during the
early Miocene, such as *Cricetodon*, *Megacricetodon* and *Democricetodon*, but remains of the
~~rare~~ unusual democricetodontine genus *Karydomys* were also found.

Karydomys is a rare and little diversified democricetodontine, which shows a
discontinuous record, geographically as well as chronologically. Its oldest record (*Karydomys*
debruijni) comes from the early Miocene (MN3) of northern Xinjian (China) (Maridet et al.,
2011). ~~This taxon~~ The genus may have rapidly expanded its range westward, as its presence is
attested shortly later in the early Miocene (MN4) of eastern Kazakhstan (*Karydomys*
dzerzhinskii) (Kordikova and De Bruijn, 2001) and Greece (*Karydomys boskosi* and
Karydomys symeonidisi) (Theocharopoulos, 2000). Some undescribed findings of *Karydomys*
from the early Miocene (MN 4) of western Anatolia (Ünay & Goktas, 1999; Kaya et al.,
2007) indicate that this area may well have been on a route between central Asia and Greece.
Karydomys may have reached south-western (*Karydomys zapfei*) (Mein & Freudentahl 1981)

and central Europe (*Karydomys wigharti*) (Mörs and Kalthoff, 2004, Prieto, 2012, 2013) by Middle Miocene times, where it became most probably extinct at about 13.8 Ma (Aa single M2 from the fissure filling Petersbuch 6; Prieto, 2012).

Because of its geographic position between Asia and Europe as well as its age, somewhat older than the first European occurrences known so far, the presence of *Karydomys* in the Keramia Formation ("Keramaria" in Besenecker, 1973) of Chios is not a trivial record. The aim of the present work is to provide a description of the teeth of the new species of *Karydomys* discovered from the Keramia Formation of Chios Island and seize the opportunity to ~~try and~~ shed light on the evolutionary history of this group of rodents by deciphering their phylogenetic relationships with other Democricetodontinae and representative Cricetodontinae, ~~and~~ touching upon the possible dispersal routes of this hamster.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

Stratigraphical context

Chios Island is situated in the north-eastern part of the Aegean Sea. The continental ~~Tertiary-Cenozoic~~ sediments of Chios are located mainly in the southeastern part of the island, unconformably overlying Mesozoic strata (Fig. 1). The Neogene deposits have been subdivided by Besenecker (1973) into four lithostratigraphical units, which are from bottom to top: the Thymiana Formation (Early Miocene), Zyfia Formation (Early–Middle Miocene), Keramia Formation (Middle Miocene) and Nenita Formation (Middle Miocene–Pliocene).

The Keramia Formation is about 120 m thick (Kondopolous et al., 2011). It consists mainly of layers of green-reddish clay and silt with less important layers of green sandstones intercalated (Besenecker, 1973). The green and reddish colours are characteristic of this formation and make it easily recognizable in the field (Besenecker, 1973). Besides, the

sediments of the Keramia Formation are clearly delimited by a light "Tuff-horizon" ~~below, on the base~~ and by the overlying white limestones of the Nenita Formation ~~on the top~~ (Besenecker, 1973).

Kondopoulou *et al.* (1993) conducted a magnetostratigraphical study in a 46 m-thick section of the Keramia Formation in the Michalos' pit area that included the three fossiliferous localities THA, THB and THC. The long reversal dominating the section was tentatively correlated ~~to~~ either with chron C5Br or chron C5Cr based on the biochronological age ~~given then suggested~~ by ~~the~~ mammals ~~found~~. Later on, Kondopoulou *et al.* (2011) provided some supplementary magnetostratigraphical data resulting from the sampling of the almost complete Keramia Formation in the Michalos section (about 120 m thickness), also including approximately 10 m of the Zayfa Formation at the bottom ~~of the section~~. Thus, they include presented information about the lower and uppermost parts of the section that was not considered in Kondopoulou *et al.* (1993). Even if the detailed magnetostratigraphical results study are is still pending publication (Kondopoulou *et al.* 2011), their ~~Their~~ preliminary interpretation of their results ~~could be seem to be in agreement correlating with a correlation of~~ the section ~~to with~~ the interval ~~including chron~~ C5Dr to ~~C5bn~~ C5Bn (Hilgen *et al.*, 2012, fig. 29.9).

Palaeontological background and biochronology

All of the vertebrate specimens yielded so far by the Miocene layers of Chios (at least in modern history) come from the exposure of the Keramia Formation in or close to the brickyard quarry known as "Michalos", which is situated SSE of the village of Thymiana, about 8 km from Chios city. The first finding of vertebrate remains from Michalos' pit was made in 1924 by the geologist ~~Georgalas~~ Georgaleas, but Paraskevaidis (1940, 1955) was the first to publish on the Miocene vertebrate fauna from Chios (macromammals, *Sanitherium* and others, but also evidence of tortoises). Additional, but more cursory, observations on

similar vertebrate remains (macromammal —particularly sanitheriid and bovid— but also chelonian fragments) from the Neogene of the vicinity of Thymiana were published by Kreatsas (1963). Palaeontological field-works in the Michalos area that were conducted in 1967 and 1968 in the framework of a Germano-Hellenic project ~~led-contributed~~ to ~~improve~~a significantly ~~ly improvement improved of our the~~ understanding of the mammalian fauna from the Keramia Formation (see Melentis & Tobien, 1967, 1968, Tobien, 1968, 1969, 1977, 1980, Rothausen, 1977, Lehmann & Tobien, 1995). In total, nine fossiliferous layers were recognized at the end of 60's, Thy 1-9, ~~which were and~~ described by Rothausen (1977). Most of the material collected then was fragmentary remains of bovids and giraffids, but a nearly complete skull of *Gomphotherium angustidens* was also discovered (and is still remembered locally!). Micromammals were also found, but were never described in detail and their present whereabouts ~~are-is~~ unknown. The same holds true for the lizards, tortoises and fish remains ~~also foundretrieved-along~~. Complementary studies on the vertebrate faunas from Chios arose from Helleno-French field campaigns in 1991 and 1993 (Kondopoulou et al., 1993; Koufos et al., 1995; Bonis et al., 1997a, 1997b, 1998; López-Antoñanzas et al., 2005). In addition to the nine fossiliferous levels described by Rothausen (1973), three new levels were found ~~in the 90's by the Hellenic French team~~on this occasion, "Thymiana A" (THA), "Thymiana B" (THB) and "Thymiana C" (THC) (Kondopoulou *et al.*, 1993). Besides a few interesting macromammalian remains (mostly of sanitheriid and bovid affinities), some of them well preserved, these fieldworks resulted in the ~~collection-building up~~ of a rich micromammal ~~fauna~~collection, which is yet to be studied in its entirety.

Our main fossiliferous layer is situated on the coast, about 340 ~~meters~~ SSW from the main brick building. It does not correspond to any of the localities previously sampled. The stratigraphical position of the new layer suggests it may be coeval with the most basal

fossiliferous layers (Thy 1 and Thy 5), ~~but~~ older than the other ones. We name it informally Thy 0.

The mammalian fauna of the Keramia Formation is considered as from the biozone MN 5 (Mein, 1989; Steininger et al., 1989; Bruijn *et al.*, 1992; Bonis *et al.*, 1997a, 1997b; 1998; Bonis & Koufos, 1999; Made, 1999; Koufos, 2006). This ~~dating-age~~ is based both on the macromammals and the evolutionary stage and composition of the micromammal fauna, notably the cricetids. However, the macromammal remains from this area are fragmentary and the micromammals have never been properly described. In fact, only Tobien (1968) and Bonis *et al.* (1997a) listed the micromammals that they recognized and ~~only a~~ single group of rodents, the ctenodactylines, has been the object of a detailed study (López-Antoñanzas et al., 2005). Kondoupoulou *et al.* (1993) showed that the fossiliferous levels THA, THB and THC were included in a long reverse episode that, considering the MN5 age provided by the mammalian fauna, could be correlated with the Chron C5Br, which in turn provided an age of about 15.5 Ma (Koufos, 2006). For instance, the micromammals from THA and THC were supposed to be younger than ~~that-those~~ of Aliveri (MN 4) but quite similar ~~to the to that of~~ Komotini (MN 5) assemblage (Bonis *et al.*, 1997a; Bonis and Koufos, 1999). Considering that our fossiliferous level Thymiana 0 is at the base of the Keramia Formation, it may be correlated with the Chron C5Cr, which would correspond to an Early Miocene age of 16.7–17.23 Ma.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Remains of micromammals were obtained by screen washing almost 2 tons of sediment with a mesh ~~light~~ of 0.5 mm. First, second and third lower molars are designated as m1, m2 and m3, and first, second and third upper molars as M1, M2 and M3, respectively. The

terminology used in the tooth descriptions follows those of Freudenthal et al. (1994) and López-Antoñanzas et al. (2010). Measurements of the occlusal surface of the teeth (maximum length [L] and maximum width [W]) were obtained with a Nikon digital counter CM-6S measuring device, following the method of van de Weerd (1976) (Table 1). All measurements are given in millimetres. The teeth of the species of *Karydomys* described in this work were compared with [all](#) the ~~all~~ known species belonging to this genus. Scans and SEMs of the teeth of the specimens have been taken with a [CT-SCAN Nikon XT H-160](#) and a Scanning Electron Microscope FEI QUANTA 200.

All the species of *Karydomys* known to date were included in the ingroup. These are:

~~*Karydomys K. debruijini*, *Karydomys K. dzerzhinskii*, *Karydomys K. symeonidisi*, *Karydomys K. boskosi*, *Karydomys K. wigharti*, *Karydomys K. zapfei* and *Karydomys K. strati*, ~~sp. nov. from Chios~~~~. In addition, a selection of closely related non-congeneric species were added to

the ingroup so as to test the monophyly of the genus *Karydomys* and to clear up its phylogenetic relationships with species currently attributed to *Democricetodon*, from which *Karydomys* may have evolved, and *Cricetodon*. These are *Democricetodon anatolicus*,

~~*Democricetodon D. doukasi*, *Democricetodon D. gracilis*, *Democricetodon D. franconicus*, *Democricetodon D. mutilus*, *Cricetodon versteegi*, *Cricetodon C. tobieni*, *Cricetodon C. kasapligili*, *Cricetodon C. aliveriensis*, *Cricetodon C. trallesensis*, *Cricetodon C. orientalis*, *Cricetodon C. meini*, *Cricetodon C. engesseri*, *Cricetodon C. hungaricus*, *Cricetodon C. bolligeri*, *Eucricetodon wangae*~~, a primitive ~~*Cricetidae*~~ *cricetid rodent*, was selected as

outgroup. A total of 32 phylogenetically informative characters (mainly of dental morphology) have been coded (see appendix [S1–S4](#)). 19 characters are binary, whereas 13 are multistate. The data matrix ([archived in the Dryad Digital Data Repository: López-Antoñanzas et al. 2018](#)) ~~see appendix S2~~ was built using Mesquite [23.6-04](#) (Maddison and Maddison 2009) and the analysis was run in TNT (Goloboff et al. 2008) with the “traditional

search” option (using TBR). Owing to the lack of a priori information, all characters were unordered and equally weighted (Fitch optimality criterion). As some species are known so far from only a few specimens, the influence of intraspecific variation in the scoring of the characters could not be assessed. Branch support was estimated through two complementary indices: Bremer Support (Bremer 1994) and Relative Bremer Support (Goloboff and Farris 2001).

~~All the specimens are provisionally stored at the University of Montpellier, Montpellier (France)~~

SYSTEMATIC PALAEOLOGY

Order RODENTIA Bowdich, 1821

Family CRICETIDAE Fischer von Waldheim, 1817

Subfamily DEMOCRICETODONTINAE Lindsay, 1987

Genus *KARYDOMYS* Theocharopoulos, 2000

Type species. *Karydomys symeonidisi* Theocharopoulos, 2000

Karydomys strati sp. nov.

[LSID:urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0958B82F-9788-4DE3-94EF-6287172E1103](https://zoobank.org/act:0958B82F-9788-4DE3-94EF-6287172E1103)

Figs 2-3

Derivatio nominis. From Stratus, ~~latinized~~ ~~latinised~~ form of Stratos (Greek: Στράτος), genitive. In honour of Stratos Asmanis in recognition of his warm-hearted hospitality during our work in the Michalos pit.

Holotype. ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-30, a left M2. This and the paratype specimens are housed in the palaeontological collections of the University of Montpellier (Montpellier, France).

Paratypes. ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-9, left M1, ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-39, right m1; ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-2, right m2; ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-5, right m2; ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-145, right m3 (broken); ~~Thy 0-30, left M2;~~ ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-48 left M2; ~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-54, left M2 (broken).

Type ~~locality~~horizon and locality. Thymiana 0. Lowermost part of the Keramia Formation, SSE of the village of Thymiana, about 8 km from Chios city (Greece).

Age. late Early Miocene (MN4).

Diagnosis. Species of *Karydomys* characterized by having a backward paracone spur and long and narrow mesolophids on the M1 and M2, having labial spur of the anterolophule and lacking anterior protolophule and metalophule on the M1 but having double protolophules and metalophules on the M2; lower molars with ectomesolophid and long and narrow mesolophids.

Karydomys strati differs from ~~*Karydomys*~~ ~~*K-arydomys*~~ *debruijini* in lacking the posterior metalophulid on the m1, in having a well-developed ectomesolophid on some m2, a strong posterior spur of the paracone on the M1 and M2 and a double metalophule on the M2 (whereas it is either anteriorly connected or absent in ~~*Karydomys*~~ ~~*Karydomys*~~ *debruijini*). It differs from *Karydomys dzerzhinskii* in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, in having the anterior and posterior protolophule unequally developed and in showing a double metalophule on the M2 (in ~~*Karydomys*~~ ~~*Karydomys*~~ *dzerzhinskii* the single metalophule is usually anteriorly located). It can be distinguished from *Karydomys symeonidisi* in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, which is present in most of the M1 of ~~*Karydomys*~~ *symeonidisi*, and in having a double metalophule on the M2. It is unlike *Karydomys boskosi* in being larger, lacking a posterior ridge of the metaconid and having a strong metalophulid and longer and narrower mesolophid on the m1. It differs from *Karydomys wigharti* in being

noticeably smaller (Fig. 4), in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1, having a backward paracone spur on the M1 and M2 and a double protolophule on the M2. It is different from *Karydomys zapfei* in being significantly smaller (Fig. 4), in having ectomesolophid on the m1, a long mesoloph on the M1, a distinct backward paracone spur on the M1 and M2, and a; markedly ~~-bendingbent-~~ double metalophule on the M2.

Description

m1 The m1 has a small and single oval anteroconid. Both labial and lingual anterolophids are distinct. The labial anterolophid is of medium length and it does not reach the base of the protoconid, whereas the lingual one is short and encloses a rounded anterosinusid. The anterior metalophulid that connects the metaconid with the anteroconid is well-developed, whereas the posterior one is absent. The long and narrow mesolophid reaches the lingual side of the tooth, where it forms a mesostylid. The ectomesolophid is long and narrow. The entoconid is located anteriorly to the hypoconid and the hypolophid is close to the mesolophid. The posterolophid is long and reaches the posterior side of the entoconid lingually, closing the posterosinusid. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

m2 Two lower second molars, of which one is ~~in~~very well preserved and the other is damaged, have been found. The occlusal outline of these teeth is rectangular. Both show well-developed labial and lingual anterolophids. The labial anterolophid is longer than the lingual one. The metalophulid connects to the anteroconid. The anterolophulid is very short. The mesolophid is nearly transverse, either long and narrow (~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-5) or-but it can ~~be~~ short (~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-2). It can reach the lingual border of the tooth, where it finishes in a mesostylid (~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-5). The metaconid and the mesolophid are connected by a longitudinal ~~-and~~ thin crest. The ectomesolophid is long (~~ThyUM Thy~~ 0-5) or absent (~~-as~~ in

the damaged specimen (~~Thy~~UM Thy 0-2). The entoconid is anteriorly located with respect to the hypoconid. The strong hypolophid, very close to the mesolophid, ~~bents~~ bends forward anteriorly ~~and it is located very close to the mesolophid~~. The long posterolophid joins with the posterolingual side of the entoconid. It encloses a deep and large posterosinusid. The roots of these teeth are not preserved.

m3 The most anterior part of the single m3 ~~found in Chios~~ is missing. Its occlusal outline is sub-triangular, its posterior part being ~~as it is~~ reduced and rounded. The metalophid is connected to the anterior arm of the protoconid and the mesolophid is absent. The well-developed hypolophid is slightly oblique and encloses the much reduced entoconid. The hypoconid is large although somewhat smaller than the protoconid. The posterolophid is long and joins with the posterolabial side of the entoconid, enclosing a large and circular posterosinusid. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

M1 The anterocone of the A-single first upper molar found ~~has been found~~. ~~The anterocone~~ is slightly divided. The lingual anteroloph is a very thin crest that runs to meet the anterior side of the protocone, enclosing the protosinus. The strong anterolophule connects the protocone to the middle part of the anterocone. This tooth shows a distinct labial spur on the anterolophule. The anterosinus is labially closed by a low ridge, which runs from the labial side of the anterocone to the anterior part of the paracone. This tooth has no anterior protolophule (protolophule I) and the posterior protolophule (protolophule II) connects to the entoloph well-posterior~~ly~~ to the protocone. The protocone and the entoloph are firmly connected. The tooth shows a short but very distinct backward paracone spur. The mesoloph is long and narrow, reaching the labial border of the tooth. The sinus is closed by a ridge that connects the anterolingual side of the hypocone to the base of the protocone. The

metalophule is short and joins with the posteroloph. This latter connects to the metacone, enclosing a small posterosinus. The roots of this tooth are not preserved.

M2 Three teeth, two of them complete ([ThyUM Thy 0-30](#) and [ThyUM Thy 0-48](#)) and the other one damaged ([ThyUM Thy 0-54](#)), have been found. The teeth show well-developed labial and lingual anterolophs. The labial anteroloph is connected to the base of the paracone, enclosing a narrow anterosinus, whereas the lingual one reaches the base of the protocone enclosing the protosinus. The protolophule is double, but its degree of development varies from one specimen to another. Specimen [ThyUM Thy 0-30](#) shows the anterior protolophule slightly interrupted and weaker than the posterior one. [ThyUM Thy 0-48](#) has the anterior protolophule strong, whereas the posterior one is weaker and interrupted. [ThyUM Thy 0-54](#) has both anterior and posterior protolophules complete. All specimens have a long and narrow mesoloph that ends with a mesostyle at the labial border of the teeth. The backward paracone spur is short but strong and reaches the mesostyle in two out of the four specimens [available](#). The teeth have a double metalophule with the posterior one stronger than the anterior one. Both the anterior and the posterior metalophules are nearly longitudinal and they can even form an additional longitudinal crest on their own (specimen [ThyUM Thy 0-30](#)). The posteroloph is short and connects to the posterior metalophule. It nearly reaches the metacone, enclosing a small posterosinus. The roots of these teeth are not preserved.

Cladistic analysis

The cladistic analysis including all species of *Karydomys* as well as relevant species currently placed in the genera *Democricetodon* and *Cricetodon* yielded a single most parsimonious tree with a length of 86 and a relatively high degree of homoplasy (CI = 0.512; RI = 0.806). Our results (Fig. 5) evidence two ~~main lineages that groups~~ separated ~~d from one another~~ at the most

basal node. The first one corresponds to all the species of *Cricetodon* included in this analysis, ~~which form a monophyletic group,~~ whereas the second ~~is formed~~ by includesencompasses the various species of *Democricetodon* taken into account in this work and all known species of *Karydomys*. However, while *Karydomys* forms a clade within the latter lineage, *Democricetodon* constitutes an array of successive sister-species to *Karydomys*. ~~Besides~~Further, two lineages diverge at the basal node of *Karydomys*: one constituted by the western ~~Eurasiate~~Eurasian species (*Karydomys wigharti* + *Karydomys zapfei*) and the other by the eastern ~~Eurasiate~~Eurasian ones (*Karydomys debruijini* + more derived species).

DISCUSSION

The examination of the new rodent remains from Chios has ~~allowed to evidence the presence of~~revealed eight molars (Figs 2-3) belonging to a middle sized *Karydomys* (Fig. 4) but different from the molars ~~in all the~~of any species of this genus known so far. *Karydomys strati* ~~sp. nov.~~ is morphologically close to the two known species from Karydia. However, it shows some important differences, particularly concerning the protolophule and the metalophule on the M1 and M2 and the degree of development of the mesolophids, which prevent to consider it as belonging to either of them. The presence of a double metalophule on the M2 (Fig. 6) may suggest that the new species from Chios could be, in fact, slightly older than *Karydomys symeonidisi* and *Karydomys boskosi*, in which the anterior metalophule is lost not only on the M1 but also on the M2. The absence, on the M1 of *Karydomys strati*, of the anterior protolophule, which is present in *Karydomys symeonidisi*, and the presence of a spur on the anterolophule on the M1, a primitive character absent in ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *boskosi*, is consistent with this hypothesis. The presence of a posterior metalophule on the M2 of *Karydomys strati* suggest that it is more evolved than ~~*Karydomys*~~

Karydomys dzerzhinskii and *Karydomys-Karydomys debruijni* (Fig. 6), which are the oldest species of *Karydomys*. In addition, *Karydomys* from Chios is distinct from Middle Miocene species such as *Karydomys-Karydomys wigharti* and *Karydomys-Karydomys zapfei* in being noticeably smaller, in lacking the anterior protolophule on the M1 (present in *Karydomys-K. wigharti*), in having a well-developed posterior paracone spur on the M1 and M2 as well as in the presence of the ectomesolophid on the m1 (Fig. 6).

The genus *Karydomys* was erected by Theocharopoulos (2000) on the basis of some characters such as the presence of a small posterosinus and well-developed ectolophs on the first two upper molars (in some of the taxa), the reduction of the size of the third molars and the presence of a small, blade-like anteroconid situated very close to the protoconid and the metaconid on the first lower molar. However, as pointed out by Maridet et al. (2011), some of these characters, such as the presence of a small posterosinus, resulting from a posterior position of the metalophule, as well as the development of the ectolophs (posterior paracone spur in the present work), are not present in all the species of the genus. Therefore, Maridet et al. (2011) suggested that the diagnosis of the genus had to be revised when more material would become available. Even though we concur with Maridet et al. (2011) that there are a number of issues related to the diagnosis of the genus *Karydomys*, we are inclined to maintain this taxon in its current specific composition as the species of *Karydomys* form a monophyletic grouping in our analysis. The clade *Karydomys* shares indeed one exclusive synapomorphy: ~~which is to have~~ a slightly divided or "crest-like" anterocone on the M1 (3 (0→1)). In fact, the M1 of *Karydomys* are ALSO characterized by a wider and flatter anterocone more independent from the anteroloph than those of *Democricetodon*, in which it is a well-defined cusp that may fuse with the anteroloph by with wear. The presence of a short lingual anterolophid (23 (0→1)) on the m1 supports also the clade, but this ~~is shown by~~ some occurs in some species of *Democricetodon* as well (e.g. *Democricetodon*

Democricetodon *anatolicus* of our ingroup). A very interesting synapomorphy is ~~found in the~~ connection of the anterior metalophulid ~~anterior~~ on the m1. ~~Thus, it~~ This crest joins ~~the a~~ distinct anterolophulid in *Democricetodon* (24(0→1)), ~~whereas it but connects~~ directly connects to the anteroconid or to a tiny anterolophulid in *Karydomys* (24 (1→2)). This latter synapomorphy feature is ~~also~~ shared by the members of the genus *Cricetodon*.

According to our results *Karydomys* split early into two different lineages. One constituted by the central Asiatic-Asian (*Karydomys debruijini* and *Karydomys dzerzhinskii*) and Greek ~~species~~ (*Karydomys symeonidisi*, *Karydomys boskosi* and *Karydomys strati* ~~sp.~~ sp. nov.) species, which we term here ~~in~~ the "eastern lineage", and the other one formed by the species from Germany and France (~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *wigharti* and ~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *zapfei*), the "western lineage". Maridet et al. (2011) had pointed out ~~the~~ morphological differences between ~~the the~~ species of *Karydomys*, ~~those~~ -from western and central Europe (France and Germany) and south-eastern Europe (Greece), ~~on the one side,~~ and ~~those the species~~ from central Asia (Kazakhstan and north-western China) on the other, ~~on the other side~~. The latter were considered the least derived particularly on the basis of the morphology of the M2. Our results show a basal position of the two central Asiatic-Asian species of *Karydomys* (~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *debruijini* and ~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *dzerzhinskii*) with respect to the Greek ones, but not regarding the western European species ~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *wigharti* and ~~*Karydomys*~~ *K-arydomys* *zapfei*, which belong to a separate lineage. The cladogram shows sister group relationships between *Karydomys dzerzhinski* from Kazakhstan and the clade composed by the three Greek species (~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *symeonidisi* (~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *strati* ~~sp. nov.~~ + ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *boskosi*)). These results are consistent with the suggestion of Kordikova and de Bruijn (2001) about a close relationship between ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *dzerzhinski* and ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys* *symeonidisi*, with the former a plausible ancestor of the later. Our results also

show that *Karydomys wigharti* is sister species of ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys zapfei*. Mörs and Kalthoff (2004) emphasized the morphological affinities between ~~these two species~~ them. Some synapomorphies of the species of *Karydomys* for central Asia and south-eastern Europe allow for differentiating them from the taxa from western and central Europe. In particular, the presence of a short but distinct backward paracone spur on the M1 (8 (0→1), a derived character state, and the presence of a well-developed ectomesolophid on the m1 (27 (0→1)), another derived character state, are ~~characters~~ features that are usually lacking on the two western and central European species *Karydomys wigharti* and *Karydomys zapfei*. However, these are not clear-cut discriminators as ~~the several~~ M1 of *Karydomys debruijini* show a backward paracone spur that varies from more or less short to absent altogether, and the ectomesolophid is equally variable in ~~the its~~ degree of development on the m1 ~~of in~~ *Karydomys wigharti*. Besides morphology, the western and central European species are also larger than the other species of *Karydomys* and, indeed, *Democricetodon*. The grouping of the Greek species of *Karydomys* is supported by stout cusps (2 (0→1)), which is a parallelism with the western and central European species. The Greek species also show a well-developed backward paracone spur on the M2 (15 ((0→1))), which is a character state incipient in *Karydomys dzerzhinski*.

The diagnostic characters provided by Theocharopoulos (2000) to differentiate *Karydomys* from *Democricetodon* are not valid for all ~~taxa~~ species. ~~On one side, t~~ The presence of a small anteroconid, which was used to discriminate the two genera, is a character also ~~shared seen with in~~ various species of *Democricetodon*. ~~On the other side~~ Further, the alleged presence of better developed ectolophs in *Karydomys* than in *Democricetodon*, ~~is~~ actually lacking in the two western and central European members of *Karydomys* (~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys wigharti* and ~~*Karydomys*~~ *Karydomys zapfei*) but present in some species of *Democricetodon* (e.g. ~~*Democricetodon*~~ *Democricetodon anaticus*),

whose ~~which have the~~ ectolophs are well ~~-~~developed. As mentioned above, only one exclusive synapomorphy backs up the clade *Karydomys*, which is a slightly divided or "crest-like" anterocone on the M1. We have reservations about the adequacy of such a unique character to justify the legitimacy of the genus *Karydomys*. However, the differences between *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys* regarding the nature of the connection of the anterior metalophulid ~~anterior~~ should also be taken into account. The species currently attributed to *Karydomys* may as well be seen as pertaining to *Democricetodon*, as derived members of the genus. At this point, however, we refrain for formally synonymising *Karydomys* with *Democricetodon* given the incomplete nature of our ingroup. Should a future, more comprehensive, phylogenetic analysis of the species of *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys* yield a pattern of results in line with our own (i.e. *Democricetodon* forming a paraphyletic array of species relative to a *Karydomys* clade) then the merits of the recognition of the genus *Karydomys* will have to be seriously questioned. In any case, the close relationships between the genera *Karydomys* and *Democricetodon* suspected by Theodoropoulos (2000) are confirmed.

The teeth of the taxa belonging to *Cricetodon* are morphologically quite different from those of *Democricetodon* and *Karydomys*. Our cladogram clearly supports the monophyly of *Cricetodon*. The species of *Cricetodon* included in the ingroup share some exclusive synapomorphies. They have the anterocone strongly divided (3 (0→1)) and a short mesoloph (9 (0→1)) on the M1. Their m1 are characterized by having a large anteroconid (22(0→1)) and by usually lacking the lingual anterolophid (23 (0→1)). With respect to the m2, the less derived members of the group ~~they~~ have a weak lingual anterolophid ~~in the less derived members of the group~~ (28 (0→1)), which completely disappear in the more evolved members-representatives of the clade (28 (1→2)). Their m3 show a more or less circular protosinusid (31 (0→1)) instead of having it retracted and directed forward as is the case in

Democricetodon and *Karydomys*. However, to confirm or refute the monophyly of this clade, a more comprehensive cladistic analysis that would include all the species belonging to

~~*Cricetodon* and closely related genera such as *Hispanomys* or *Byzantiniathe*~~ subfamily *Cricetodontinae* is necessary.

CONCLUSION

The new species *Karydomys strati* ~~sp. nov.~~ has been erected in this work to accommodate ~~new~~ remains of *Karydomys* recently recovered from the Miocene of Chios. According to our phylogenetic analysis, the genus *Karydomys* split early into two different lineages, an “eastern stock” that includes the central Asian and Greek species and a “western lineage”, which is constituted by the western and central European species of the genus. *Karydomys strati* belongs to the ~~so-called~~ “eastern lineage” stock”. This ~~quite-relatively~~ large-sized democricetodontine rodent is characterized by ~~having~~ a labial spur on the anterolophule and ~~the~~ lacking of the anterior protolophule on the M1 ~~and-as well as~~ by the presence of a double metalophule on the M2. This latter character suggests that *Karydomys strati* is more evolved than ~~*Karydomys-K-arydomys*~~ *dzerzhinskii* and ~~*Karydomys-K-arydomys*~~ *debruijini*, which ~~are~~ are both ~~lacking~~ devoid of the posterior metalophule, but less evolved than the Greek species ~~*Karydomys-K-*~~ *symeonidisi* and ~~*Karydomys-K-*~~ *boskosi*, which ~~are~~ both lacking the anterior metalophule.

The presence of *Karydomys* is of interest from a biostratigraphical point of view. The Keramia Formation has been usually given a Middle Miocene age. However, the evolutionary stage of the new species of *Karydomys* that it yields suggests that ~~the-its~~ stratigraphical level ~~it comes from~~ could be, in fact, slightly older than those from which ~~*Karydomys-K-arydomys*~~ *symeonidisi* and ~~*Karydomys-K-arydomys*~~ *boskosi* were collected (MN4). The lowermost part

of the Keramia Formation may, therefore, ~~well~~ be late Early Miocene in age (MN4), which would be in accordance with the latest published magnetostratigraphical data of the area.

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DATA ARCHIVING STATEMENT

This published work and the nomenclatural act it contains, have been registered in

ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/References/81D56B1D-2B00-4FCB-90D7-2C1D15EA0B7B>

Data for this study are available in the Dryad Digital Repository:

<http://datadryad.org/review?doi=doi:10.5061/dryad.m086rm8> ~~[please note that the~~

~~data for this paper are not yet published and this temporary link should not be~~

~~shared without the express permission of the author]~~

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Appendix S1

Character list used in this analysis

1-Size of the M1: (0) small, 1.2-1.8 mm; (1) medium size, 1.8-2.6 mm; (2) large >2.6 mm

2-Cusps: (0) slender; (1) stout

M1

3-Anterocone: (0) single; (1) slightly divided or crest like; (2) divided

4-Anterolabial cingulum: (0) present; (1) absent

5-Labial spur of the anterocone: (0) absent; (1) present

6-Labial spur on the anterolophule: (0) absent; (1) present

7-Anterior protolophule: (0) absent; (1) present

8-Backward paracone spur: (0) very weak or absent; (1) short but distinct; (2) long

9-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium length; (2) absent

10-Metalophule: (0) anterior; (1) posterior

11-Posteroloph: (0) long; (1) continues beyond the metalophule; (2) does not continue beyond the metaloph; (3) absent

12- Roots: (0) three; (1) four

M2

13-Anterior protolophule: (0) complete; (1) weak; (2) absent

14-Posterior protolophule: (0) absent; (1) weak; (2) complete

15-Backward paracone spur: (0) absent; (1) present

16-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium sized; (2) absent

17-Metaloph: (0) anterior; (1) double; (2) posterior

18-Roots: (0) three; (1) four

M3

19-Relative size: (0) large, LM1/LM3 <1.7; (1) small, LM1/LM3 >1.7

20-Neoentoloph: (0) absent; (1) present

21-Mesoloph: (0) absent; (1) short; (2) long

m1

22-Anteroconid: (0) small; (1) large

23-Lingual anterolophid: (0) well developed; (1) short (2) absent

24- Anterior metalophulid: (0) absent; (1) more or less transversely directed and connected to the anterolophulid (2) very anteriorly directed and generally connected to the anteroconid

25-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) mostly absent

26-Mesolophid: (0) absent; (1) short to medium length (length<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (2) long to medium length

27-Ectomesolophid: (0) very weak or absent; (1) present

m2

28-Lingual anterolophid: (0) developed; (1) very weak or not developed

29-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) weak or absent

30-Mesolophid: (0) short (length<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (1) long

m3

31-Protosinusid: (0) retracted and directed forward; (1) circular

32-Mesolophid: (0) present; (1) absent

Figure captions

TEXT-FIG. 1. Simplified geological map of Chios Island (redrawn from Kondopoulou *et al.* 1993) and location of the fossiliferous site Thy 0.

TEXT-FIG. 2. Lower cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, [ThyUM Thy 0-39](#), right m1. B, [ThyUM Thy 0-5](#), right m2. C, [ThyUM Thy 0-2](#), right m2. D, [ThyUM Thy 0-145](#), right m3. E-H. CT-~~Sean-scan~~ images of [ThyUM Thy 0-39](#), right m1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-~~Seanscan images views~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-5](#), right m2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-~~Seanscan images views~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-2](#), right m2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-~~Sean-scan images views~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-145](#), right m3. Q, occlusal view; R, lingual view; S, labial view. The scale bar equals 1 mm for the SEM images (CT-~~Sean-scan~~ images have been approximately scaled).

TEXT-FIG. 3. Upper cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, [ThyUM Thy 0-9](#), left M1; B, [ThyUM Thy 0-30](#), left M2; [ThyUM Thy 0-48](#) left M2; [ThyUM Thy 0-54](#), left M2 (broken). E-H. CT-~~Sean-scan~~ images of [ThyUM Thy 0-9](#), left M1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-~~Sean-scan images views~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-30](#), left M2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-~~Sean-scan views images~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-48](#) left M2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-~~Sean-scan images views~~ of [ThyUM Thy 0-54](#), left M2. Q, occlusal view; R, labial view;

S, anterior view. The scale bar equals 1 mm for the SEM images (CT-~~Scan~~-scan images have been approximately scaled).

TEXT-FIG. 4. Length/width scatter diagram of the two first upper and lower molars of the different species belonging to the genus *Karydomys*.

TEXT-FIG. 5. Cladogram showing the relationships among all known species of *Karydomys* as well as selected ~~ones of~~ *Democricetodon* and *Cricetodon* and the phylogenetic position of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. (data matrix in [Dryad Digital Data Repository: López-Antoñanzas et al. 2018](#)~~Supplementary File 2~~). [Nodes show](#) Bremer and Relative Bremer Indices ~~are showed at the appropriate nodes~~.

TEXT-FIG. 6. Evolutionary stage of various species of *Karydomys* with some important structures signaled. A-C, *K-[arydomys](#) dzerzhinskii* (taken from Kordikova & de Bruijn, 2001); D-F, *Karydomys strati* sp. nov.; G-I, *K-[arydomys](#) wigharti* (taken from Mörs & Kalthoff, 2004). The scale is not included as the morphology only is considered.

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Simplified geological map of Chios Island (redrawn from Kondopoulou et al. 1993) and location of the fossiliferous site Thy 0.

209x175mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Lower cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, UM Thy 0-39, right m1. B, UM Thy 0-5, right m2. C, UM Thy 0-2, right m2. D, UM Thy 0-145, right m3. E-H. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-39, right m1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-5, right m2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-2, right m2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-145, right m3. Q, occlusal view; R, lingual view; S, labial view. The scale bar equals 1mm for the SEM images (CT-scan images have been approximately scaled).

Upper cheek teeth of *Karydomys strati* sp. nov. A-D. SEM photographs of the occlusal surface of the teeth. A, UM Thy 0-9, left M1; B, UM Thy 0-30, left M2; C, UM Thy 0-48 left M2; D, UM Thy 0-54, left M2 (broken). E-H. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-9, left M1; E, occlusal view; F, lingual view; G, labial view; H, anterior view. I-L. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-30, left M2. I, occlusal view; J, lingual view; K, labial view; L, anterior view. M-P. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-48 left M2; M, occlusal view; N, lingual view; O, labial view; P, anterior view. Q-S. CT-scan images of UM Thy 0-54, left M2. Q, occlusal view; R, lingual view; S, anterior view. The scale bar equals 1 mm for the SEM images (CT-scan images have been approximately scaled).

Length/width scatter diagram of the two first upper and lower molars of the different species belonging to the genus *Karydomys*.

Cladogram showing the relationships among all known species of Karydomys as well as selected Democricetodon and Cricetodon and the phylogenetic position of Karydomys strati sp. nov. (matrix in Supplementary File 2). Nodes show Bremer and Relative Bremer Indices.

203x276mm (600 x 600 DPI)

Evolutionary stage of various species of *Karydomys* with some important structures signaled. A-C, *Karydomys dzerzhinskii* (taken from Kordikova & de Bruijn, 2001); D-F, *Karydomys strati* sp. nov.; G-I, *Karydomys wigharti* (taken from Mörs & Kalthoff, 2004). The scale is not included as the morphology only is considered.

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			Length	Width
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-39	m1	1.79	1.224
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-2	m2	1.667	1.385
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-5	m2	1.865	1.513
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-145	m3 (broken)	/	/
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-9	M1	2.398	1.477
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-30	M2	1.857	1.372
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-48	M2 (eroded)	1.527	1.316
<i>Karydomys strati</i>	Thy 0-54	M2 (broken)	/	/

Appendix S1

Character list used in this analysis

1-Size: (0) small, 1.2-1.8 mm; (1) medium size, 1.8-2.6 mm; (2) large >2.6 mm

2-Cusps: (0) slender; (1) stout

M1

3-Anterocone (0) single; (1) slightly divided or crest like; (2) divided

4-Anterolabial cingulum (0) present; (1) absent

5-Labial spur of the anterocone: (0) absent; (1) present

6-Labial spur on the anterolophule: (0) absent; (1) present

7-Anterior Protolophule: (0) absent; (1) present

8-Backward paracone spur: (0) very weak or absent; (1) short but distinct; (2) long

9-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium length; (2) absent

10-Metalophule: (0) anterior; (1) posterior

11-Posteroloph: (0) long; (1) continues beyond the metalophule; (2) does not continue beyond the metaloph; (3) absent

12- Roots: (0) 3; (1) 4

M2

13-Anterior Protolophule: (0) complete; (1) weak; (2) absent

14-Posterior Protolophule: (0) absent; (1) weak; (2) complete

15-Backward paracone spur: (0) absent; (1) present

16-Mesoloph: (0) long; (1) short or medium sized; (2) absent

17-Metaloph: (0) anterior; (1) double; (2) posterior

18-Roots: (0) three; (1) four

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- 19-Relative size: (0) large, LM1/LM3 <1.7; (1) small, LM1/LM3 >1.7
- 20-Neoentoloph: (0) absent; (1) present
- 21-Mesoloph: (0) absent; (1) short; (2) long
- m1
- 22-Anteroconid: (0) small; (1) large
- 23-Lingual anterolophid: (0) well-developed; (1) short (2) absent
- 24-Metalophulid anterior: (0) absent; (1) connected to the anterolophid (2) connected to the anteroconid
- 25-Metalophulid posterior: (0) present; (1) mostly absent
- 26-m1-Mesolophid (0) absent; (1) short to medium lenght (lenght<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (2) long to medium length
- 27-Ectomesolophid: (0) very weak or absent; (1) present
- m2
- 28-Lingual anterolophid: (0) developed; (1) very weak or not developed
- 29-Posterior metalophulid: (0) present; (1) weak or absent
- 30-Mesolophid: (0) short (lenght<1/3 of the distance between ectolophid and lingual border); (1) long
- m3
- 31-Protosinusid: (0) retracted and directed forward; (1) circular
- 32-Mesolophid: (0) present; (1) absent