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Ecological opportunity and diversification in the rodents of the Indo-Australian archipelago

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Gould Seminar Room (Room 235) Gould building, 116 Daley Road, ANU



Why some lineages display higher taxonomic diversity and eco-morphological disparity than others is a central question in evolutionary biology. Most models incorporate some combination of biogeographic transitions, evolution of key innovations, and diversification to fill ecological niche space. Old world rats and mice, rodents of the subfamily *Murinae*, are dominant ecological components of terrestrial ecosystems across the Indo-Australian Archipelago (IAA) where they are the only non-volant mammals to have colonised each of the major landmasses. Their biogeographic transitions across the IAA from Asia to Sulawesi, the Phillipines and Australasia have led to substantial endemic diversity and a surfeit of eco-morphological forms in each region. Here I present

phylogenetic analyses of murine rodents across the IAA, including several previously unsampled species from Sulawesi.

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