

# Scientists Report A New Species of Small Mammal

Mammalogists from the Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ), CAS have discovered a new shrew species, and revalidated the species status of another one in Yunnan, China. The study has been published in *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*.

Shrews in the genus *Chodsigoa* are among the least known mammals in China, and also in the world. To estimate the evolutionary relationships and re-evaluate the systematics, scientists have examined those specimens deposited at KIZ, the Sichuan Academy of Forestry (SAF), the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ) and the American National Museum of Natural History (AMNH), many of which are century-old.

The results illustrated that *Chodsigoa parca* from eastern and western banks of the Mekong River were genetically and morphologically distinct from each other, which supported the existence of a new species. Subsequently, the shrews from the eastern bank of the Mekong River were identified as a new species. It was named as *Chodsigoa hoffmanni* sp. nov. in memory of Robert Shaw Hoffmann (1929–2010), who was a Curator of Mammals at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and worked with Chinese scientists and contributed to the development of mammalogy in China. By examining the type specimens deposited in the AMNH as well as comprehensive comparison of all specimens, the researchers further confirmed the subspecies *C. parca furva* should also be



*Chodsigoa hoffmanni* sp. nov.



*Chodsigoa furva*.

recognized as a valid species.

The same research group also described a new species of the hoolock gibbon, *Hoolock tianxing* sp. nov., and a new species of the Chinese dormouse *Typhlomys nanus* sp. nov. earlier this year.

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