

NOTA

THE GENUS *THYLAMYS* GRAY, 1843 IN URUGUAY (DIDELPHIMORPHIA, DIDELPHIDAE)

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This is the first record of the genus *Thylamys* in Uruguay. This genus groups marsupials (*sensu lato*) vernacularly named “mouse opossums” or “marmosas”. *Thylamys* belongs to Tate’s “*elegans*” group. Reig *et al.* (1987), Hershkovitz (1992) and Gardner (1993) use *Thylamys* as a full generic name. Gardner & Creighton (1989) remove Tate’s “*microtarsus*” group from genus *Thylamys* as used for Reig *et al.* (1987), establishing for it the name *Gracilinanus*. Cranial features of the genus *Thylamys* are a skull usually stronger than that of *Gracilinanus* and well developed supraocular and postocular ridges in most of the species.

The studied material is a skull with mandibles and some long bones founded in barn owl (*Tyto alba*) pellets. It is deposited in the mammal collection of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural of Montevideo with the number MNHN 3840. The pellets were collected in a road bridge at Paso Baltasar (Arroyo Tres Cruces Grande and Ruta 26, Departamento Tacuarembó, Uruguay) in March 1994, by the authors. The skull was identified primarily as *Gracilinanus sp.* (González & Saralegui, 1996). Posteriorly one of us (E.M.G.) compared it with voucher specimens (genus *Thylamys*, *Gracilinanus*, *Marmosops*, *Marmosa* and *Micoureus*) from the following collections: Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad de La Plata (Argentina), Museu Nacional de Rio de Janeiro and Museu de Zoologia Universidade de Sao Paulo (Brasil).

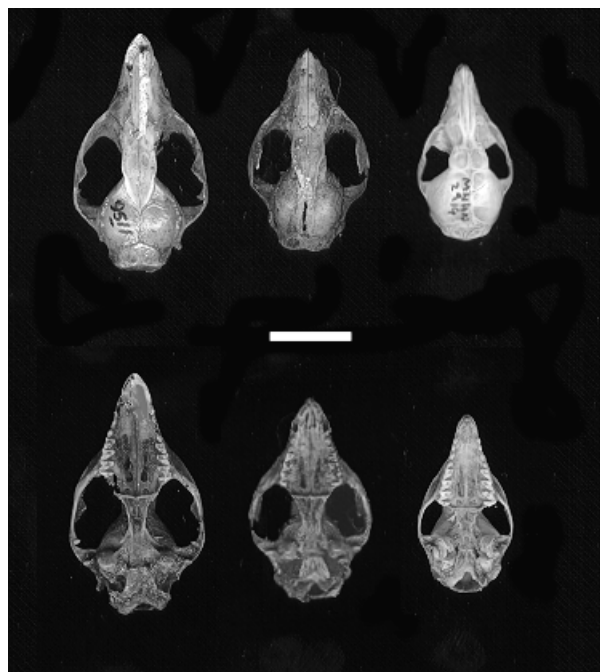


Fig. 1. Dorsal and ventral views of the studied skull of Uruguayan *Thylamys sp.* (center) compared with an Argentinean specimen of *Thylamys pusillus* (right) (MNHN 3841) and *Gracilinanus agilis* (left) from Bopicuá, (Dpto. de Río Negro, Uruguay) (MNHN 2914). Bar= 1 cm.

Comparisons with material of close taxa suggest that the Uruguayan *Thylamys* may be an undescribed species. However, we think it is not convenient to make the species description without a larger number of specimens.

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