

*Short notes and Reviews****Mirrabella*, a new name for the genus *Mirabella* De Bruijn *et al.*, 1987 (Mammalia), preoccupied by *Mirabella* Emeljanov, 1982 (Insecta)**

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De Bruijn *et al.* (1987) described a new genus of cricetid-like muroid rodent, *Mirabella*, from the eastern Mediterranean. The type species is *M. tuberosa* from the Early Miocene locality of Aliveri (Island of Evia, Greece). The name had already appeared in Benda and De Bruijn (1982), but only as a *nomen nudum*. Apart from the type species, De Bruijn *et al.* (1987) also defined *M. intermedia* from the Anatolian locality of Harami I. However, this species was transferred subsequently to *Deperetomys* (De Bruijn *et al.*, 1993). Instead, another *Mirabella*, *M. anatolica*, was described, also from Harami I, as well as *M. crenulata* from the somewhat younger locality of Keseköy (De Bruijn and Saraç, 1992). The presence of the genus in two central European localities was also noted therein. The original classification in the Eucricetodontinae, partly based on the species *intermedia*, was changed into Paracricetodontinae. Unfortunately, Kalthoff (2000, 2006) did not analyse the microstructure of the lower incisors of *Mirabella*, so its allocation remains uncertain for the time being.

However, the name *Mirabella* had already been used for a homopteran from Mongolia (Emeljanov, 1982). The type species of this genus is the extant *Mirabella albifrons* (Fieber, 1866) from eastern and northern mainland Europe (Fauna Europaea, 2007).

For completeness, it is also relevant to mention that Barskova (1988a; English translation Barskova, 1988b) described a small suite of fossil molluscs from the Kolyma Uplift in eastern Asia. One new genus was erected, *Mirabella*, assigned to ‘Класс Gastropoda? inc[ertae] sed[is]’ (Barskova, 1988a, p. 104). The shelly *Mirabella* was based on a few specimens of a single species, *Mirabella ridicula* Barskova, 1988a, from the Atdabanian (Lower Cambrian) exposed in the ‘lower reaches of the Bolshaya Stolbovaya River’ (Barskova,

1988b, p. 102). However, *Mirabella* Barskova, 1988a, is a junior synonym of *Micrina* Laurie, 1986 (P. Parkhaev, written comm. to L.W.v.d.H.O., March 2007), although the species *ridicula* was not listed as an ‘other species’ in the recent discussion by Li and Xiao (2004, p. 909).

The authors of these taxa, in erecting a generic name that linked a Cambrian snail, a Miocene hamster and an extant plant-sucking bug, apparently considered the morphology of their respective type species to be aberrant, which lead to the use of the same name (*Mirabella* = miraculous, L.). The homonymy of the hamster and the snail was discovered while entering information into the Paleobiological Database; one of our reviewers drew our attention to that of the homopteran (S. Bengtson, written comm., March 2007). The description of both the homopteran and the hamster *Mirabella* comply by the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Thus, *Mirabella* De Bruijn *et al.*, 1987, is a junior homonym of *Mirabella* Emeljanov, 1982. We therefore propose the name *Mirrabella* nom. nov. for *Mirabella* De Bruijn *et al.*, 1987, not Emeljanov, 1982. The new name attempts to preserve the sense of the original by a minor modification of the spelling. The type species of *Mirrabella* is *Mirabella tuberosa* De Bruijn *et al.*, 1987, by original designation.

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