

Mandible morphometrics, dental microwear pattern, and palaeobiology of the extinct Balearic Dormouse *Hypnomys morpheus*

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Hypnomys morpheus is a giant endemic dormouse from the Pleistocene deposits of Mallorca and Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain). The present paper aims to interpret the morphological divergence between the mandibles of *Hypnomys* and of its extant relative *Eliomys*, the outline of the mandible being used as a marker of the morphological divergence. By comparison with the mandible of *Eliomys*, the more massive mandible of *Hypnomys* has recorded an ecological shift of the insular lineage towards a more abrasive diet, including hard vegetable matter, and a different niche. A microwear analysis of the teeth of *Hypnomys* was simultaneously performed as it can shed light on the diet, and is independent from the comparison of the mandibles. *Hypnomys* possibly ate harder food items than *Eliomys*, and likely occupied most of the island environments. *Hypnomys* appears to have differentiated from its ancestral type toward a more generalized morphology because of the lack of competitors.

Key words: Rodentia, Gliridae, *Hypnomys morpheus*, Fourier analysis, microwear, morphological evolution, paleodiet, Balearic Islands, Spain.

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