

A new heterosoricid shrew from the lowermost Oligocene of Europe

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The earliest Oligocene faunas of Europe are characterised by a large number of Asian immigrants. One of the classical sites that shows the faunal change after this so-called “Grande Coupure” is Hoogbutsel in Belgium (MP 21). Recently a new locality from the lowermost Oligocene was discovered in Belgium, Boutersem TGV. Here, we describe a new heterosoricid (Mammalia, Soricomorpha), *Belgicasorex ramboeri* gen. et sp. nov., from these lowermost Oligocene localities. We assume that, like the erinaceid *Tetracus nanus* Aymard, 1846 and the nyctitheriid *Oligonyctia hoffmani* Smith, 2004, *Belgicasorex ramboeri* was one of the Asian immigrants that entered Europe after the “Grande Coupure”.

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