

A new genus of tragulid ruminant from the early Miocene of Kenya

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We re-describe the type material of the tiny African tragulid “*Dorcatherium*” *moruorotensis* from the early Miocene of Kenya, and erect the new genus *Afrotragulus*, the first African Miocene tragulid that does not belong to *Dorcatherium*. This new taxon is characterized by its elongated and stretched lower molars with a unique morphological dental pattern that strongly contrasts with that of *Dorcatherium*. We additionally include the former “*Dorcatherium*” *parvum*, also a small species from the early Miocene of Kenya, into the new genus *Afrotragulus* as *Afrotragulus parvum*, figuring it for the first time. We discuss the usefulness of body size as the main taxonomical criterion for studying the Tragulidae. And finally we comment on the taxonomical and morphological diversity of tragulids in the moment of their sudden early Miocene re-appearance and expansion in the Old World.

Key words: *Afrotragulus*, *Dorcatherium*, Tragulidae, Ruminantia, early Miocene, Moruorot Hill, Rusinga Island, Kenya, Africa.

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