

A new species of the suid genus *Kolpochoerus* from Ethiopia

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Although the suid genus *Kolpochoerus* is well known from the Plio-Pleistocene of Africa, the evolutionary history of one of its constituent species, *K. majus*, remained obscure until substantial fossil evidence accumulated during the last 20 years, largely from sites in Ethiopia. Here, we describe *Kolpochoerus phillipi* sp. nov., based on a fairly complete skull and the remains of additional individuals from ~2.5 Ma deposits at Matabaietu, in the Middle Awash study area of Ethiopia. Based on a phylogenetic analysis, we suggest that *K. phillipi* sp. nov. belongs to a clade of “bunolophodont suines” including *K. majus* and the extant giant forest hog *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*. Within this clade, *K. phillipi* sp. nov. likely represents a potential ancestor of *K. majus*, based on its morphology and stratigraphic position.

Key words: Mammalia, Suinae, *Kolpochoerus*, *Hylochoerus*, *Potamochoerus*, Pliocene, Pleistocene, Middle Awash, Ethiopia.

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