

## **African Rodent Ecology and Evolution: Past, Present, and Future**

Africa is a region well known for its high rodent diversity and endemism, with nearly every ecological, behavioral, and locomotory adaptation represented on a single continent. Given these factors, African rodents lend themselves as a model for studies related to ecology and evolution. This significance has been demonstrated in two recent compendia, *Mammals of Africa* and *Rodents of Sub-Saharan Africa*, which have synthesized relevant literature for this Order and have highlighted gaps in our knowledge. Despite the publication of such landmark works, emerging technologies, including next-generation sequencing, geometric morphometrics, and advanced biotelemetry continue to shed light on the evolution and ecology of this diverse mammalian lineage. This symposium will use these two literature sources as a launching point for addressing past, present, and future research on African rodents. Talks will include a variety of topics with the central theme of addressing how our knowledge of African rodent ecology and evolution has changed through time, with particular emphasis on how emerging technologies continue to shape our understanding of these enigmatic mammals. Potential topics include:

- The historical and current understanding of species distribution, diversity and evolutionary relationships, highlighting taxonomic groups of interest for future studies.
- Broad scale biogeographic patterns identified through the use of genetic markers.
- Morphological adaptation
- Behavioral ecology

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