



Correction to: Exploring small mammal diversity in Georgia (Sakartvelo) through DNA barcoding

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Correction to: *Biologia* (2024) 79:2789–2803
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11756-024-01742-1>

This correction stands to correct the original article wherein the authors claimed that two species of small mammals, namely *Microtus rossiaemeridionalis* (Ognev, 1924) and *Myotis tschuliensis* (Kuzyakin, 1935), were recorded for the first time as a result of their research. However, it has come to the authors' attention that the latter species had been previously mentioned in Georgia several years prior. Coraman et al. (2019), while studying the *M. nattereri* complex of the western Palearctic, were the first to propose *M. tschuliensis* as a distinct species rather than a subspecies of *M. nattereri* based on genetic evidence. Their study primarily focused on landscape genetics and phylogeography of *M. nattereri* sensu lato rather than a comprehensive taxonomic reclassification and survey of taxa distribution. Thus, it is not surprising that only two specimens of the *M. nattereri* species complex were included from westernmost Georgia by these authors. However, they concluded that the whole of Georgia (and the South Caucasus in general) is occupied by a lineage (later named *M. tschuliensis*) rather than *M. nattereri* as previously thought. The authors' work builds upon their foundational discovery by confirming the presence of *M. tschuliensis* in Georgia. Moreover, the authors' study extends the understanding of bat biodiversity in the region by documenting the coexistence of both *M. tschuliensis* and

M. nattereri in the Caucasus region, a finding that had not been reported. Thus, while the research of Coraman et al. was instrumental in the initial identification and taxonomic proposal, the authors' work contributes to the broader ecological and biogeographical knowledge of these species in Georgia.

Furthermore, the authors request that readers take note of the previously omitted Acknowledgments and Funding sections, as provided:

Acknowledgements The authors thank the Rustaveli National Science Foundation and the Caucasus Barcode of Life (CaBOL) project for supporting our work. We would like to thank Luka Kokiashvili (Institute of Ecology, Ilia State University) for producing the maps used in the article and all the staff of the CaBOL project for their essential aid in producing the presented work. The authors also thank Dr. Emrah Çoraman (Eurasia Institute of Earth Sciences, Istanbul Technical University) and Dr. David Tarkhishvili (Institute of Ecology, Ilia State University) for their insightful consultations.

Funding This work was supported by the Rustaveli National Science Foundation project "DNA-barcoding database of small mammals and fauna composition determination" (#FR-19–2295) and by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research under grant number 01DK20014A (CaBOL project).

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11756-024-01742-1>.

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