

The systematics of the dusky palm squirrel, *Funambulus sublineatus*, and its relationships to Layard's palm squirrel, *F. layardi*

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The systematics of the dusky palm squirrel, *Funambulus sublineatus*, are reassessed against new evidence following a revision of the genus *Funambulus*. Mitochondrial (mt) DNA sequences suggest that the Sri Lankan subspecies of *F. sublineatus* is the sister taxon of Layard's palm squirrel, *F. layardi*, despite its phenotypic similarity to the nominate species. Morphological and mtDNA evidence are presented for these species plus additional mtDNA data from Indian palm squirrel, *F. palmarum* and northern palm squirrel, *F. pennantii*. Morphometric data indicate that the two taxa conventionally considered subspecies of *F. sublineatus* are sufficiently distinct for them to be ranked separately, resulting in two further endemic mammal species in India and Sri Lanka and an increase in *Funambulus* diversity. The name of the Sri Lankan species changes to '*F. obscurus*'. Whether the mtDNA phylogeny is a true reflection of *F. obscurus* and *F. layardi* remains unresolved pending further data.

[MEMO]