

***Ctenomys paraguayensis*, una nueva especie de roedor excavador
procedente del Paraguay Oriental (Mammalia, Rodentia,
Ctenomyidae)**

Julio Rafael CONTRERAS

Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Av. A. Gallardo 470, 1405 Buenos Aires,
Argentina. E-mail: jcontreras@paleonet.com.ar

Abstract: *Ctenomys paraguayensis*, a new species of fossorial rodent from Eastern Paraguay (Mammalia, Rodentia, Ctenomyidae). *Ctenomys paraguayensis*, a new species of the so called *angujá-tutú* or *tucu-tuco* is described from a small group of specimens secured at Coraté-i, near Ayolas, department of Misiones, Paraguay. The new species has cytogenetic and morphological distinctiveness within the whole known species of the genus. The karyotype is $2n=52$, showing some affinities with the species ranging in the north of the Province of Corrientes, Argentina (from the *Ctenomys perrensi-roigi* and the *dorbignyi-pearsoni* complexes), but is not closely related with that of the neighbouring *Ctenomys pilarensis* Contreras, 1993 from the departament of Neembucú, Paraguay. Comparative analysis of morphometric, osteological and general somatic characteristics indicated a clear differentiation of the new species with *Ctenomys pilarensis* and a non close affinity with the north-mesopotamic species of the genus. Perhaps historical considerations justify the assumption that *Ctenomys paraguayensis* may be the representative of *Ctenomys tucotuco* Brants, 1827, a bibliographically based species, representing the Azara's (1802) "tucu-tuco" from Paraguay, but definitive evidence of that statement is lacking. Because of the great environmental change due to the Yacyretá Dam, *Ctenomys paraguayensis* is apparently very prone to extinction if not yet vanished in its very restricted geographic range, endemic of Eastern Paraguay.