

Moles (Talpidae) from the late Middle Miocene of South Germany

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The moles from the South German fissure fillings Petersbuch 6, 10, 18, 31, 35, 48 include 14 species, four of which are new: *Leptosaptor bavaricum* gen. et sp. nov., *Leptosaptor robustior* gen. et sp. nov., *Myxomygale gracilis* sp. nov., and *Tenuibrachiatum storchi* gen. et sp. nov. Most samples are characterised by their high species diversity. *Talpa minuta* is the most common species in nearly all samples. *Leptosaptor* is characterised by a slender humerus and by the loss of lower antemolars. It is interpreted as a Miocene offshoot of the Scalopini. *Myxomygale gracilis* represents the latest record of the genus. *Tenuibrachiatum storchi* has a slender humerus and one lower incisor is lost. The species is structurally ancestral to the extant *Urotrichus*. The genus *Pseudoparatalpa* Lopatin, 1999 is considered a synonym of *Paratalpa*. The talpids of the Petersbuch fissures are in line with a Middle Miocene correlation of MN 7+8 as already indicated by the cricetids. The remains of desmans in the Petersbuch 6 fissure filling indicate the proximity of water. The presence of *Urotrichini* in nearly all samples, albeit scanty, suggests a forestal environment within the range of the owls, which preyed on them.

Key words: Mammalia, Talpidae, moles, Miocene, Germany, Petersbuch.

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