



ECM 2011

VIth European Congress of Mammalogy

Université P. et M. Curie - Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
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6. Evolution of mammals on islands: generalities and exceptions

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Because there is no accepted mechanism for it, ecologists are still debating the generality of the island rule of island evolution in mammals. Paleontologists however have long accepted it. The idea for the symposium is to bring together researchers from both areas, and enhance the discussion: why does the fossil record show so much evidence for the island rule, yet, some macroecologists contest its existence? The format of the symposium would be the following:

1. defining the rules: a review of the pattern and processes of island evolution in mammals.
2. reviewing the evidence, based on the fossil record.
3. some more evidence, based on recent island species (including patterns of genetic variation).
4. what do large data set say? A macroecological approach is the basis for arguing against the generality of the island rule.
5. men, mammals and islands: the anthropochorous fauna.