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PROBLEM OF THE NUMBER OF SPECIES TUBENOSES BAT (MURINA) IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

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The bat genus *Murina* Gray, 1842 contains about 35 recognized species. The highest diversity of species dated for the subtropics and tropics of Southeast Asia. In the last decade, interest in the intra- and interspecific taxonomy of the subfamily Murinae Miller, 1907 has grown the application of morphological methods and DNA-barcoding made it possible to describe more than 16 previously unknown species of *Murina*.

The chromosome set of *Murina* ($2n = 44$, $NFa = 50-56$) differs from the primitive *Myotis*-type karyotype by the presence of subtelocentric pairs formed as a result of pericentric inversions of the original acrocentric chromosomes. Variations of the fundamental number in various studies are explained by different interpretations of secondary short arms.

Traditionally, two species tube-nosed bats are accepted in Russian Far East: larger tube-nosed bat, *Murina hilgendorfi* Gray, 1842, and lesser tube-nosed bat, *Murina ussuriensis* Ognev, 1913. One more of known species, *Murina ussuriensis* is rare and practically unstudied. Karyotype of lesser tube-nosed bat has been reported from Japan.

Siberian tube-nosed bat, *M. hilgendorfi*, rather recently was separated from the close tropical species *M. leucogaster* Milne-Edwards, 1872 which discriminated from its by both morphology and genetics. Karyotypes have been studied for Siberian, Japanese and Far Eastern taxa.

The karyotypes of vespertilionid bats are evolutionarily conservative in general. Robertsonian translocations are the main mechanism of chromosomal evolution in Vespertilionidae; accordingly, most of the chromosome arms have been conserved in the course of diversification of karyotypes. The differences observed in karyotypes of the larger tube-nosed bats from different geographic populations raise the question about the necessity of further molecular genetic and morphological studies.

