

1 **Running head:** CRANIAL MORPHOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN  
2 TENRECS

3 Sive Finlay<sup>1,2</sup> and Natalie Cooper<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

4 <sup>1</sup> School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland.

5 <sup>2</sup> Trinity Centre for Biodiversity Research, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland.

6 \*Corresponding author: ncooper@tcd.ie; Zoology Building, Trinity College Dublin,  
7 Dublin 2, Ireland.

8 Tel: +353 1 896 1926.

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10 diversity, tenrecs

# 11 Introduction

12 Analysing patterns of morphological diversity has important implications  
13 for our understanding of ecological and evolutionary traits. For example,  
14 from a functional ecology perspective, morphological characteristics of  
15 limbs inform us about locomotory style (e.g. Bou et al., 1987) and the  
16 trophic niches associated with particular dental morphologies affect  
17 speciation and diversification rates through time (Price et al., 2012).  
18 Morphological diversity is also an important aspect of evolutionary  
19 patterns such as adaptive radiations and convergent evolution. High  
20 morphological diversity is a unifying (Losos and Mahler, 2010; Olson and  
21 Arroyo-Santos, 2009), although not defining (Glor, 2010; Olson and  
22 Arroyo-Santos, 2009), characteristic of adaptive radiations. Furthermore,  
23 analysing morphological convergences in groups such as freshwater  
24 cichlid fish (Muschick et al., 2012) and anole lizards (Mahler et al., 2013)  
25 gives interesting insights into the relative repeatability of evolution (Losos,  
26 2011).

27 Although studies of morphological diversity have clear implications  
28 for our understanding of ecological and evolutionary patterns, apart from  
29 a few examples (e.g. Ruta et al., 2013; Goswami et al., 2011; Brusatte et al.,  
30 2008), it is still common to study morphological diversity from a  
31 qualitative rather than quantitative perspective. However, we need to  
32 quantify the morphological similarities and differences among species to  
33 gain a better understanding of their ecological interactions and  
34 evolutionary history. Unfortunately, morphological diversity is difficult to  
35 quantify. Studies are inevitably constrained to measure the diversity of  
36 specific traits rather than overall morphologies (Roy and Foote, 1997). In

37 addition, our perception of morphological diversity is influenced by the  
38 trait being used. One study of pterosaurs demonstrated that comparing  
39 the diversity of different morphological traits using varying methods  
40 produced similar results (Foth et al., 2012). However, it remains unclear  
41 whether this finding can be applied to all vertebrate groups: in some  
42 species, comparing the relative diversity of cranial and limb morphologies  
43 may yield different results (Foth et al., 2012). Furthermore, linear  
44 measurements of morphological traits can restrict our understanding of  
45 overall morphological variation. A distance matrix of measurements  
46 between specific points is unlikely to give a completely accurate  
47 representation of a three dimensional structure (Rohlf and Marcus, 1993).

48 These are important limitations to consider but geometric  
49 morphometric approaches help to overcome some of the issues associated  
50 with traditional morphological studies (Adams et al., 2004).

51 Morphometric studies based on caliper measurements of particular  
52 features can only describe a limited set of distances, ratios and angles  
53 which often fail to capture the overall shape of a specific structure (Slice,  
54 2007). Geometric morphometrics circumvents these issues by using a  
55 system of Cartesian landmark coordinates to define anatomical points.  
56 This method captures more of the true, overall anatomical shape of  
57 particular structures (Mitteroecker and Gunz, 2009). These more detailed  
58 approaches are useful tools for studying patterns of morphological  
59 diversity.

60 Here we apply geometric morphometric techniques to quantify  
61 morphological diversity in a Family of small mammals, the tenrecs.  
62 Tenrecs (Afrosoricida, Tenrecidae) are a morphologically diverse group  
63 that is commonly cited as an example of both convergent evolution and an

64 adaptive radiation (Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011; Eisenberg and  
65 Gould, 1969). The Family is comprised of 34 species, 31 of which are  
66 endemic to Madagascar (Olson, 2013). Body masses of tenrecs span three  
67 orders of magnitude (2.5 to  $\geq 2,000$ g); a greater range than all other  
68 Families, and most Orders, of living mammals (Olson and Goodman,  
69 2003). Within this vast size range there are tenrecs which convergently  
70 resemble shrews (*Microgale* tenrecs), moles (*Oryzorictes* tenrecs) and  
71 hedgehogs (*Echinops* and *Setifer* tenrecs, Eisenberg and Gould, 1969). Their  
72 similarities include examples of morphological, behavioural and  
73 ecological convergence (Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011). Tenrecs are one  
74 of only four endemic mammalian clades in Madagascar and the small  
75 mammal species they resemble are absent from the island (Garbutt, 1999).  
76 Therefore, it appears that tenrecs represent an adaptive radiation of  
77 species which filled otherwise vacant ecological niches (Soarimalala and  
78 Goodman, 2011). The similarities among tenrecs and other small  
79 mammals are even more remarkable when you consider their  
80 phylogenetic history. Tenrecs were originally classified within the general  
81 "Insectivora" clade and only molecular studies revealed their true  
82 phylogenetic affinities within the Afrotherian mammals (Stanhope et al.,  
83 1998). Therefore, despite initial appearances, tenrecs are more closely  
84 related to elephants, manatees and aardvarks than they are to shrews,  
85 moles or hedgehogs.

86 Although tenrecs are often cited as an example of both an adaptive  
87 radiation and exceptional convergent evolution, these claims have not  
88 been investigated quantitatively. There are qualitative similarities among  
89 the hind limb morphologies of tenrecs and several other unrelated species  
90 with similar locomotory styles (Salton and Sargis, 2009) but the degree of

91 morphological similarity has not been established. Morphological  
92 diversity is an important feature of adaptive radiations (Losos and  
93 Mahler, 2010) and it also informs our understanding of convergent  
94 phenotypes (Muschick et al., 2012). Therefore, it is important to quantify  
95 patterns of morphological diversity in tenrecs to gain an insight into their  
96 evolution. My thesis is the first study to address this issue.

97 We present the first quantitative study of patterns of morphological  
98 diversity in tenrecs. We use geometric morphometric techniques (Rohlf  
99 and Marcus, 1993) to compare cranial morphological diversity in tenrecs  
100 to that of their closest relatives, the golden moles (Afrosoricida,  
101 Chrysochloridae). We expect tenrecs to be more morphologically diverse  
102 than golden moles because tenrecs occupy a wider variety of ecological  
103 niches. The tenrec Family includes terrestrial, semi-fossorial, semi-aquatic  
104 and semi-arboreal species (Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011). In contrast,  
105 all golden moles occupy very similar, fossorial ecological niches (Bronner,  
106 1995). Greater ecological variety is often (though not always) correlated  
107 with higher morphological diversity (Losos and Mahler, 2010).

## 108 **Materials and Methods**

109 The methods we used involved several steps of data collection, geometric  
110 morphometrics analyses and comparisons of morphological diversity. For  
111 clarity, Figure 1 summarises all of these steps and we describe them in  
112 detail below.

## **Data collection**

One of us (SF) used the collections of five museums: the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), the Smithsonian Institute Natural History Museum, Washington D.C. (SI), the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH), the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge M.A. (MCZ) and the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH). We recorded species names as they were written on museum specimen labels and then corrected them to match the taxonomy in Wilson and Reeder's Mammal Species of the World (2005). For recently identified species, which are not included in Wilson and Reeder (2005), we used the taxonomy recorded on the specimen labels. Wilson and Reeder (2005) record 30 species of tenrec but more recent studies indicate that there are now 34 species (Olson, 2013). The additional species belong to the shrew tenrec (*Microgale*) Genus and represent either recognition of cryptic species boundaries (Olson et al., 2004) or discovery of new species (Goodman et al., 2006; Olson and Arroyo-Santos, 2009). Only one of these four recent additions, *M. jobihelyi*, was present in the museum collections and therefore we could not include the three other newly recognised species in the analyses. We photographed all of the tenrec and golden mole skulls available in the collections. This included 31 of the 34 species in the tenrec Family and 12 of the 21 species of golden moles (Wilson and Reeder, 2005).

We took pictures of the skulls using photographic copy stands consisting of a camera attachment with an adjustable height bar, a flat stage on which to place the specimen and an adjustable light source. To take possible light variability into account, on each day we took a

139 photograph of a white sheet of paper and used the custom white balance  
140 function on the camera to set the image as the baseline "white"  
141 measurement for those particular light conditions.

142 We photographed the specimens with a Canon EOS 650D camera fitted  
143 with a EF 100 mm f/2.8 Macro USM lens. We used a remote control  
144 (Hähnel Combi TF) to take the photos to avoid shaking the camera and  
145 distorting the images. We photographed the specimens on a black  
146 material background with a light source in the top left-hand corner of the  
147 photograph. We used small bean bags as necessary to hold the specimens  
148 in position while being photographed to ensure that they lay in a flat  
149 plane relative to the camera and did not tilt in any direction. We used the  
150 grid-line function on the live-view display screen of the camera to position  
151 the specimens in the centre of each image.

152 We photographed the skulls in three views: dorsal (top of the  
153 cranium), ventral (underside of the skull with the palate roof facing  
154 upwards) and lateral (right side of the skull) (Figure 1). When the right  
155 sides of the skulls were damaged or incomplete we photographed the left  
156 sides and later reflected the images so that they could be compared to  
157 pictures of the right sides (e.g. Barrow and Macleod, 2008).

158 We converted the raw files to binary (grey scale) images and re-saved  
159 them as TIFF files (uncompressed files preserve greater detail, RHOI,  
160 2013). Photographs of the specimens from the American Museum of  
161 Natural History and the Smithsonian Institute are available on figshare in  
162 separate file sets for the dorsal (Finlay and Cooper, 2013b), ventral (Finlay  
163 and Cooper, 2013d) and lateral (Finlay and Cooper, 2013c) skull pictures  
164 along with the mandibles (Finlay and Cooper, 2013a). Copyright

165 restrictions from the other museums prevent public sharing of their  
166 images however they are available on request.

## 167 **Geometric morphometric analyses**

### 168 **Landmark placement on images**

169 We used a combination of landmark and semilandmark analysis  
170 approaches to assess the shape variability in skull. We used the TPS  
171 software suite (Rohlf, 2013) to digitise landmarks and curves on the  
172 photos. We set the scale on each image individually to standardise for the  
173 different camera heights that I used when photographing my specimens.  
174 We created separate data files for each of the three morphometric analyses  
175 (skulls in dorsal, ventral and lateral views). One of us (SF) digitised  
176 landmarks and semilandmark points on every image individually. Some  
177 specimens were too damaged to use in particular views so there were a  
178 different total number of images for each analysis. We photographed 182  
179 skulls in dorsal view (148 tenrecs and 34 golden moles), 173 skulls in  
180 ventral view (141 tenrecs and 32 golden moles) and 171 skulls in lateral  
181 view (140 tenrecs and 31 golden moles).

182 When using semilandmark approaches there is a potential problem of  
183 over - sampling: simpler structures will require fewer semilandmarks to  
184 accurately represent their shape (MacLeod, 2012). To ensure that we  
185 applied a uniform standard of shape representation to each outline  
186 segment (i.e. that simple structures would not be over-represented and  
187 more complex features would not be under-represented), we followed the  
188 method outlined by MacLeod (2012). For each data set we chose a random



189 selection of photos of specimens which represented the breadth of the  
190 morphological data (i.e. specimens from each sub-group of species). We  
191 drew the appropriate curves on each specimen and over-sampled the  
192 number of points on the curves. We measured the length of the line and  
193 regarded that as the 100%, true length of that outline. We then re-sampled  
194 the curves with decreasing numbers of points and measured the length of  
195 the outlines. We calculated the length of each re-sampled curve as a  
196 percentage of the total length of the curve and then found the average  
197 percentage length for that reduced number of semilandmark points across  
198 all of the specimens in my test file. We continued this process until I  
199 found the minimum number of points that gave a curve length which was  
200 at least 95% accurate. We repeated these curve-sampling tests for each  
201 analysis to determine the minimum number of semilandmark points  
202 which would give accurate representations of morphological shape.

203 Figure (REF) depicts that landmarks and curves which we used for  
204 each of the sets of photographs. For landmarks which are defined by  
205 dental structures, we used published dental sources (Repenning, 1967;  
206 Eisenberg and Gould, 1969; Nowak, 1983; MacPhee, 1987; Knox Jones and  
207 Manning, 1992; Davis and Schmidly, 1997; Quérrouil et al., 2001; Nagorsen,  
208 2002; Wilson and Reeder, 2005; Goodman et al., 2006; Karataş et al., 2007;  
209 Hoffmann and Lunde, 2008; Asher and Lehmann, 2008; Muldoon et al.,  
210 2009; Lin and Motokawa, 2010) where available to identify the number  
211 and type of teeth in each species. Detailed descriptions of the landmarks  
212 can be found in the supplementary material.

213 After creating the files with the landmarks and semilandmarks placed  
214 on each photograph, we used TPSUtil (Rohlf, 2012) to create "sliders" files  
215 that defined which points in the TPS files should be treated as

216 semilandmarks (Zelditch et al., 2012). We combined the landmarks and  
217 taxonomic identification files into a single morphometrics data object and  
218 carried out all further analyses in R version 3.1.1 (R Core Team, 2014).  
219 Data and code for all of our analyses is available on GitHub (REF to paper  
220 repository).

221 At this stage, we either used the full data set (31 species of tenrec and  
222 12 species of golden mole) or a reduced data set with just 17 species of  
223 tenrec (Figure 1). We created this reduced data set because the majority of  
224 tenrec species (19 out of 31 in my data) belong to the *Microgale*  
225 (shrew-like) Genus that has relatively low morphological diversity  
226 (Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011; Jenkins, 2003). This may mask signals  
227 of higher morphological diversity among other tenrecs. To test this, we  
228 created a subset of the tenrec data that included just five of the *Microgale*  
229 species, each representing one of the five sub-divisions of *Microgale*  
230 outlined by Soarimalala and Goodman (2011), i.e. small, small-medium,  
231 medium, large and long-tailed species. We compared the morphological  
232 diversity of this subset of tenrecs (n=17: five *Microgale* and 12  
233 non-*Microgale* species) to that of the 12 species of golden moles (dashed  
234 arrows in Figure 1). After this selection stage, all further steps in the  
235 analyses were the same.

236 For each analysis, we used the `gpagen` function in the `geomorph`  
237 package (Adams et al., 2013) to run a general Procrustes alignment (Rohlf  
238 and Marcus, 1993) of the landmark coordinates while sliding the  
239 semilandmarks by minimising Procrustes distance (Bookstein, 1997). We  
240 used these Procrustes-aligned coordinates of all specimens to calculate  
241 average shape values for each species which we then used for a principal  
242 components (PC) analysis with the `plotTangentSpace` function (Adams

et al., 2013). We selected the number of principal component (PC) axes that accounted for 95% of the variation in the data (Figure 1) and used these axes to estimate morphological diversity in each Family.

## Estimating morphological diversity

We grouped the PC scores for tenrecs and golden moles separately so that we could estimate the diversity of each Family and then compare the two groups (Figure 1). We compared morphological diversity in two ways. First, we used non parametric multivariate analysis of variance (npMANOVA; Anderson, 2001) to test whether tenrecs and golden moles occupied significantly different positions within the morphospaces defined by the PC axes that accounted for 95% of the overall variation in the data (e.g. Serb et al., 2011; Ruta et al., 2013). A significant difference between the two Families would indicate that they have unique morphologies which do not overlap. Second, we compared morphological diversity within tenrecs to the diversity within golden moles. We define morphological diversity as the mean Euclidean distance (sum of squared differences) between each species and its Family centroid (Figure 2). This is summarised in the equation below where  $n$  is the number of species in the Family,  $i$  is the number of PC axes and  $c$  are the average PC scores for each axis (the centroid).

$$Disparity = \frac{\sqrt{\sum (PCn_i - PCc_i)^2}}{n} \quad (1)$$

If tenrecs are more morphologically diverse than golden moles, then they should be more dispersed within the morphospaces and have, on

265 average, higher values of mean Euclidean distance.

266 One possible issue with these analyses is that the two Families have  
267 unequal sample sizes: 31 (or a subset of 17) tenrec species compared to  
268 just 12 golden mole species. Morphological diversity is usually decoupled  
269 from taxonomic diversity (e.g. Ruta et al., 2013; Hopkins, 2013) so larger  
270 groups are not necessarily more morphologically diverse. However,  
271 comparing morphological diversity in tenrecs to the diversity of a smaller  
272 Family could still bias the results. We used pairwise permutation tests to  
273 account for this potential issue.

274 We tested the null hypothesis that tenrecs and golden moles have the  
275 same morphological diversity (the same mean Euclidean distance to the  
276 Family centroid). If this is true, when we randomly assign the group  
277 identity of each species (i.e. shuffle the "tenrec" and "golden mole" labels)  
278 and then re-compare the morphological diversity of the two groups, there  
279 will be no significant difference between these results and those obtained  
280 when the species are assigned to the correct groupings. We performed this  
281 shuffling procedure (random assignation of group identity) 1000 times  
282 and calculated the difference in morphological diversity between the two  
283 groups for each permutation. This generated a distribution of 1000 values  
284 which are calculations of the differences in morphological diversity under  
285 the assumption that the null hypothesis (equal morphological diversity in  
286 the two Families) is true. This method automatically accounts for  
287 differences in sample size because shuffling of the group labels preserves  
288 the sample size of each group: there will always be 12 species labelled as  
289 "golden mole" and then, depending on the analysis, either 31 or 17  
290 species labelled as "tenrec". Therefore, the 1000 permuted values of  
291 differences in morphological diversity create a distribution of the expected

292 difference in diversity between a group of sample size 31 (or 17 in the case  
 293 of the subsetted tenrec data) compared to a group of sample size 12 under  
 294 the null hypothesis that the two groups have the same morphological  
 295 diversity. We compared the observed measures of the differences in  
 296 morphological diversity between the two Families to these null  
 297 distributions to determine whether there were significant differences after  
 298 taking sample size into account (two-tailed t test).

## 299 **Results and Discussion**

### 300 **Results**

301 Figure 3 depicts the morphospaces defined by the first two principal  
 302 component (PC) axes from our principal components analyses (PCAs) of  
 303 skull and mandible morphologies. The PCAs are based on the average  
 304 Procrustes -superimposed shape coordinates for skulls in three views  
 305 (dorsal, ventral and lateral). To compare morphological diversity in the  
 306 two families, we used the PC axes which accounted for 95% of the  
 307 cumulative variation in each of the skull analyses: dorsal (n=6 axes),  
 308 ventral (n=7 axes) and lateral (n=7 axes). First, we compared the position  
 309 of each Family within the morphospace plots. Tenrecs and golden moles  
 310 occupy significantly different positions in the dorsal (npMANOVA:  
 311  $F_{1,42}=68.13$ ,  $R^2=0.62$ ,  $p=0.001$  ), ventral (npMANOVA:  $F_{1,42}=103.33$ ,  
 312  $R^2=0.72$  ,  $p=0.001$  ) and lateral (npMANOVA:  $F_{1,42}=76.7$ ,  $R^2 =0.65$ ,  $p=0.001$   
 313 ) skull morphospaces, indicating that the Families have very different,  
 314 non-overlapping cranial and mandible morphologies (Figure ??).

315 Second, we compared the morphological diversity within each Family.

316 Based on our measures of mean Euclidean distance to the Family  
317 centroids, tenrec skulls are more morphologically diverse than golden  
318 mole skulls when they are measured in lateral view but not in dorsal or  
319 ventral view (Table 1). In contrast, when we analysed morphological  
320 diversity of skulls within the sub-sample of 17 tenrecs (including just five  
321 *Microgale* species) compared to the 12 golden mole species, we found that  
322 tenrec skulls were significantly more morphologically diverse than golden  
323 moles in all analyses (Table 1).

324 The pairwise permutation tests for each analysis confirmed that  
325 differences in morphological diversity were not artefacts of differences in  
326 sample size (Table 2)

## 327 Discussion

328 Tenrecs are often cited as an example of a mammalian group with high  
329 morphological diversity (Olson, 2013; Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011;  
330 Eisenberg and Gould, 1969). They are also more ecologically diverse than  
331 their closest relatives (Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011; Bronner, 1995) so  
332 we predicted that they would be more morphologically diverse than  
333 golden moles. However, our results do not support our original  
334 prediction, highlighting the importance of quantitative tests of perceived  
335 morphological patterns.

336 In our full analysis, tenrecs only had higher morphological diversity  
337 than golden moles when the skulls were measured in lateral view (Table  
338 1). There was no difference in morphological diversity when we analysed  
339 the skulls in dorsal or ventral views. This is most likely due to our choice  
340 of landmarks. The two outline curves in lateral view (Figure REF)

341 emphasise morphological variation in the back and top of the skulls.  
342 These curves summarise overall shape variation but they do not identify  
343 clear anatomical differences because they are defined by relative features  
344 rather than homologous structures (Zelditch et al., 2012). Therefore, high  
345 morphological diversity in tenrecs when analysed in this view may not  
346 indicate biologically or ecologically relevant variation. These lateral  
347 aspects of the skull morphology were not visible in the dorsal and ventral  
348 photographs so they could not be included in those analyses. In contrast,  
349 our landmarks in the dorsal, and particularly ventral, views focus on  
350 morphological variation in the overall outline shape of the sides of the  
351 skull and palate (Figure REF). The result that tenrecs are no more diverse  
352 than golden moles in these areas makes intuitive sense: most tenrecs have  
353 broad, non-specialised diets (Olson, 2013) so there is no obvious functional  
354 reason why they should have particularly diverse palate morphologies.  
355 The different results for our analysis of lateral skull morphologies  
356 compared to dorsal and ventral views highlight the importance of using  
357 multiple approaches when studying 3D morphological shape using 2D  
358 geometric morphometrics techniques (Arnqvist and Mårtensson, 1998).

359 In addition to the differences among the three skull views, our results  
360 indicate that, in skulls at least, the overall morphological diversity within  
361 tenrecs is not as large as is often assumed (e.g. Eisenberg and Gould, 1969;  
362 Olson, 2013). Studies of morphological variation are sensitive to the  
363 sampling used. If a particular morphotype is over-represented then the  
364 similarities among those species will reduce the overall morphological  
365 variation within the group (Foote, 1991). This appears to be the case for  
366 our data; it was only when we included a sub-sample of *Microgale* tenrecs  
367 that we found higher morphological diversity in tenrecs compared to

368 golden moles across all three skull analyses (Table 1). While there are  
369 clear physical differences among Family members (Olson, 2013; Eisenberg  
370 and Gould, 1969), the majority of tenrecs are very morphologically similar  
371 (Jenkins, 2003) so morphological diversity in the Family as a whole is not  
372 as large as it first appears. Of course our results are based on skull shape  
373 only and analyses of other morphological traits may produce different  
374 results, but they do provide an insight into the differences between  
375 subjective and quantitative assessments of morphological diversity.

## 376 **Caveats**

377 As highlighted above, landmark choice and placement will inevitably  
378 influence the results of a geometric morphometrics study. Our interest in  
379 broad-scale, cross-taxonomic comparisons of cranial morphology  
380 constrained our choice of landmarks to those that could be accurately  
381 identified in many different species (e.g. Ruta et al., 2013; Goswami et al.,  
382 2011; Wroe and Milne, 2007). In contrast, studies that use skulls to  
383 characterise morphological variation within species (e.g. Blagojević and  
384 Milošević-Zlatanović, 2011; Bornholdt et al., 2008) or to delineate species  
385 boundaries within a clade (e.g. Panchetti et al., 2008) tend to focus on  
386 more detailed, biologically homologous landmarks (Zelditch et al., 2012).  
387 Repeating our analyses with a narrower taxonomic focus may give greater  
388 insight into the specific morphological differences among subgroups of  
389 tenrecs and golden moles.

390 The goal of our study was to quantify morphological variation in  
391 tenrecs instead of relying on subjective assessments of their high  
392 morphological diversity (Olson, 2013; Soarimalala and Goodman, 2011;



393 Eisenberg and Gould, 1969). However, it is difficult to quantify overall  
394 morphological diversity because any study is inevitably constrained by its  
395 choice of specific traits (Roy and Foote, 1997). Variation in skull shape is  
396 only one aspect of overall morphology. Quantifying variation in other  
397 morphological traits could yield different patterns. Therefore future work  
398 should extend our approach beyond skulls to gain a more complete  
399 understanding of the overall morphological diversity of tenrecs and  
400 golden moles.

## 401 **Conclusions**

402 We have presented the first quantitative investigation of morphological  
403 diversity in tenrecs. Our results indicate that, overall, tenrec skulls are not  
404 more morphologically diverse than golden moles and that similarities  
405 among the species rich *Microgale* tenrecs mask signals of higher  
406 morphological diversity among the rest of the Family. Of course the  
407 results presented here are restricted to just one axis of morphological  
408 variation and further analysis of other traits is required. However, our  
409 findings provide a foundation for future investigations and represent a  
410 significant step towards a more quantitative understanding of patterns of  
411 morphological and evolutionary diversity in tenrecs.

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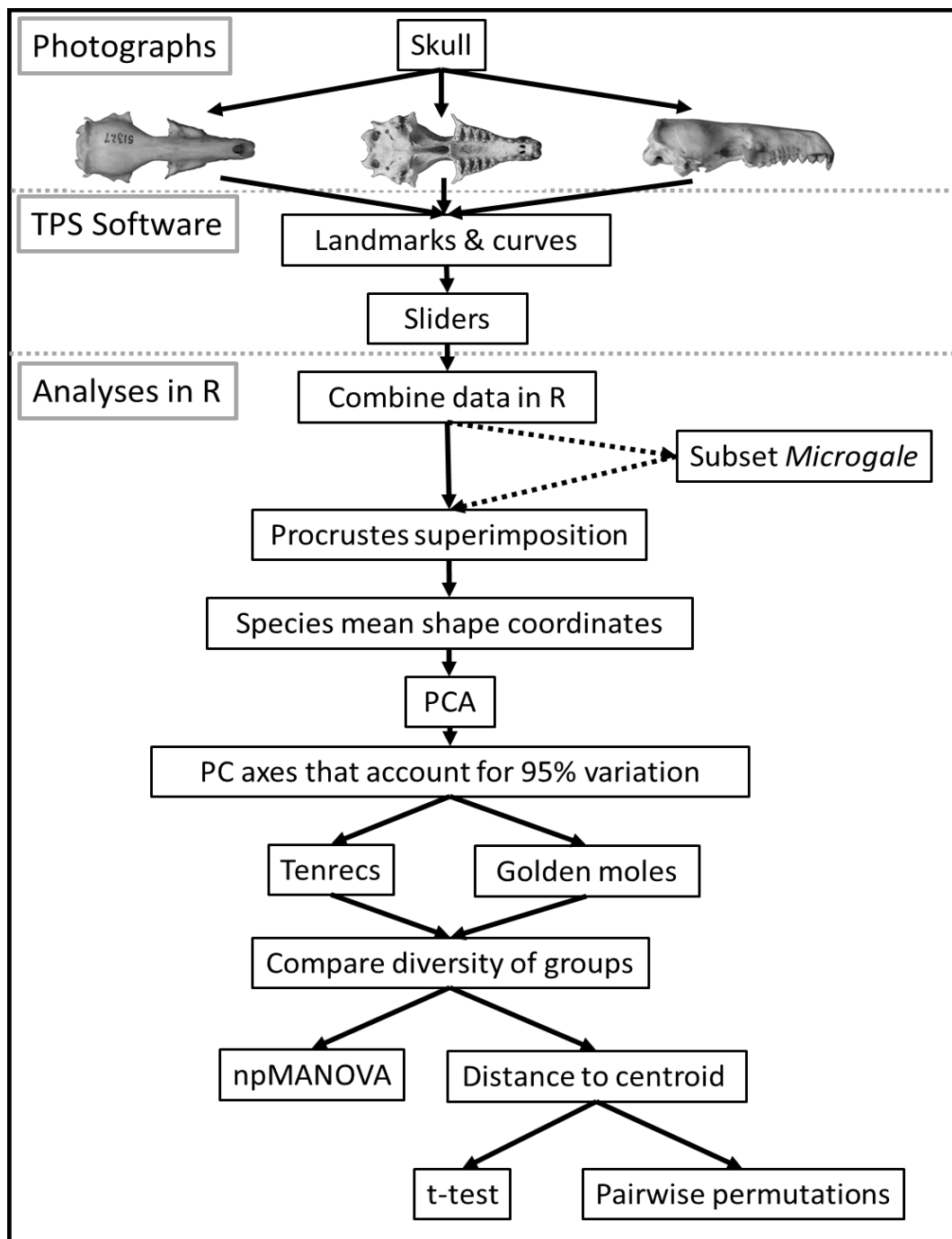


Figure 1: Summary of the main steps in our data collection, processing and analysis protocol. Note that the analyses were repeated separately for each set of photographs: skulls in dorsal, ventral and lateral views. The dashed arrows refer to the stage at which we selected a subsample of the tenrecs (including just five species of the *Microgale* Genus) so that we could compare the morphological diversity of this reduced subsample of tenrec species to the diversity of golden moles.

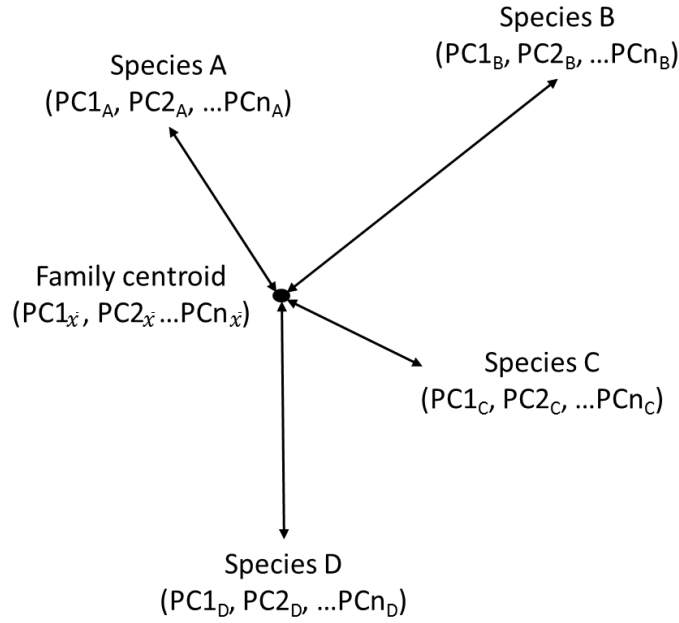


Figure 2: Estimating morphological diversity as the mean Euclidean distance between each species and the Family centroid. Every species had scores on the principal components (PC) axes that accounted for 95% of the variation in the principal components analysis. The number of axes (PCn) varied for each analysis but they were the same within a single analysis. PC scores were used to calculate the Euclidean distance from each species to the Family centroid (average ( $\bar{x}$ ) PC scores for the entire Family). Morphological diversity of the Family is the average value of these Euclidean distances.

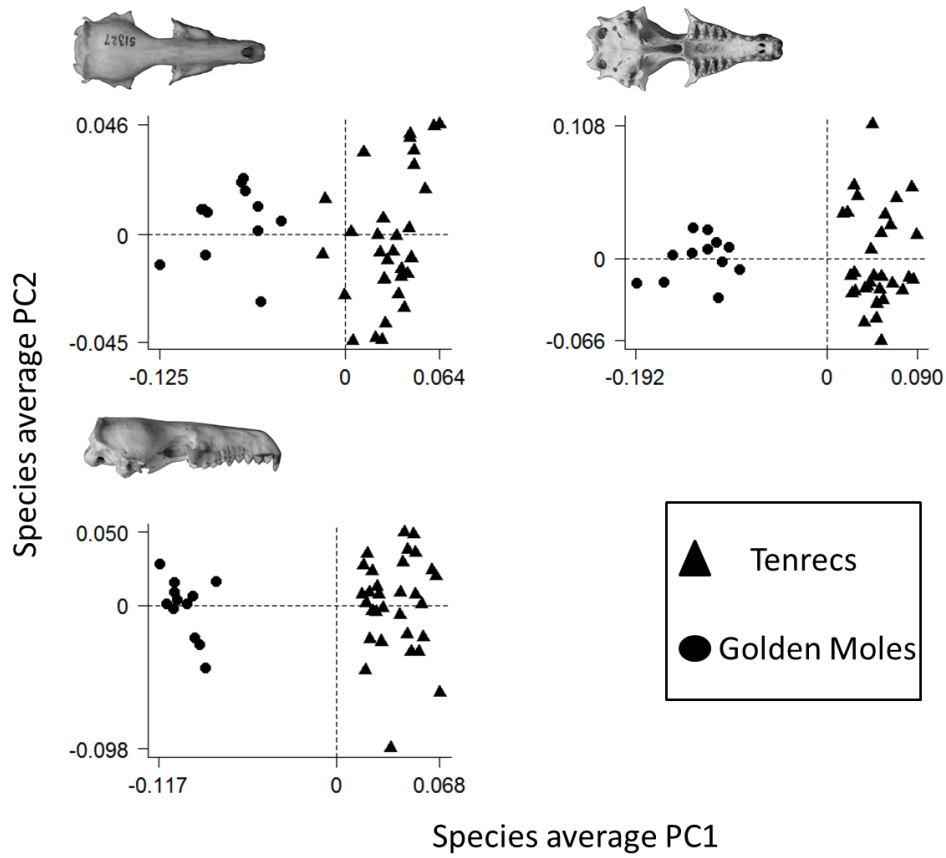


Figure 3: Principal components plots of the morphospaces occupied by tenrecs (triangles, n=31 species) and golden moles (circles, n=12 species) for the skulls in dorsal (top left), ventral (top right) and lateral (bottom left) views. Each point represents the average skull shape of an individual species. Axes are principal component 1 (PC1) and principal component 2 (PC2) of the average scores from principal components analyses of mean Procrustes shape coordinates for each species.

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Table 1: Morphological diversity in tenrecs compared to golden moles (12 species). N is the number of tenrec species: 31 species or 17 species including just five representatives of the *Microgale* Genus. Morphological diversity of the Family is the mean Euclidean distance from each species to the Family centroid. Significant differences between the two Families ( $p < 0.05$ ) from two-tailed t-tests are highlighted in bold.

N	Analysis	Morphological diversity		$t_{df}$	p value
		Tenrecs (mean $\pm$ s.e)	Golden moles (mean $\pm$ s.e)		
31	Skulls dorsal	0.036 $\pm$ 0.0029	0.029 $\pm$ 0.0032	-1.63 <sub>29.88</sub>	0.11
	Skulls ventral	0.048 $\pm$ 0.0034	0.044 $\pm$ 0.0041	-0.68 <sub>26.99</sub>	0.51
	Skulls lateral	0.044 $\pm$ 0.0041	0.032 $\pm$ 0.0037	-2.16 <sub>35.03</sub>	<b>0.04</b>
17	Skulls dorsal	0.044 $\pm$ 0.0025	0.029 $\pm$ 0.0032	-3.62 <sub>22.75</sub>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
	Skulls ventral	0.054 $\pm$ 0.0039	0.042 $\pm$ 0.0041	-2.23 <sub>25.46</sub>	<b>0.04</b>
	Skulls lateral	0.054 $\pm$ 0.0053	0.031 $\pm$ 0.0037	-3.47 <sub>26.31</sub>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>

Table 2: Results of the permutation analyses comparing the observed differences in morphological diversity to a null distribution of expected results. Morphological diversity of the Family is the mean Euclidean distance from each species to the Family centroid. Results are shown for both the full (N=31 species of tenrec compared to 12 species of golden mole) and reduced (N=17 species of tenrec compared to 12 golden moles) data sets. Significant values ( $p < 0.05$ ) indicate that the observed morphological diversity is different to the expected differences under a null hypothesis of equivalent diversities in the two Families.

N	Analysis	Morphological diversity					p value
		Measured values			Permuted values		
		Tenrecs	Golden moles	Difference	Min.	Max.	
31	Dorsal	0.036	0.029	0.007	-0.011	0.009	0.013
	Ventral	0.048	0.044	0.004	-0.014	0.013	0.023
	Lateral	0.044	0.032	0.012	-0.012	0.011	<0.001
17	Dorsal	0.044	0.029	0.015	-0.011	0.014	<0.001
	Ventral	0.054	0.042	0.013	-0.017	0.019	0.023
	Lateral	0.054	0.031	0.022	-0.018	0.019	<0.001