Brevirhynchocyon gen. nov., a new name for the genus Brachyrhynchocyon
Senut, 2008 (Mammalia, Macroscelidea) preoccupied by Brachyrhynchocyon
Loomis, 1936 (Mammalia, Carnivora)

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In 2008, Senut described a new genus of Macroscelidea from the lower Miocene of the Northern Sperrgebiet in Namibia. As the name suggests, Brachyrhynchocyon, is a brachydont animal with smooth premolars, large multipecticate upper incisors, and lacking m3. The new species Brachyrhynchocyon jacobi was erected as the type species of the new genus. In the same paper, Miorhynchocyon gariepensis (Senut, 2003) was transferred to the new genus, under the new combination Brachyrhynchocyon gariepensis.

However, the name Brachyrhynchocyon has already been used for an amphicyonid carnivoran (Loomis, in Scott and Jepsen, 1936). The type species of this genus is Brachicyon intermedius Loomis, 1931 from the Oligocene of North America. Brachicyon was shown to be preoccupied by Brachycyon Filhol, 1872 and so Loomis (1936) erected the new genus Brachyrhynchocyon. While compiling vertebrate taxonomic lists, one of us (G.G.) noticed the homonymy between the two genera. According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), Brachyrhynchocyon Senut, 2008, is a junior homonym of Brachyrhynchocyon Loomis, 1936. We therefore propose the new genus name Brevirhynchocyon gen. nov. to substitute Brachyrhynchocyon Senut, 2008. The new name also refers to the brachyodonty of this macroscelid. Brevis is the latin synonym of the greek word brachys (βραχύς) meaning brief or short and Rhyncho-
cyon, a modern genus of Macroscelididae and moreover a common ending for other genera of the family.

The two species of Brachyrhynchocyon Senut, 2008 are now reassigned as Brevirhyn-

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