

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Philip Myers, associate professor of zoology, with tenure, and associate curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of zoology, with tenure, and curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1975 University of California, Berkeley  
B.A. 1969 Swarthmore College

Professional Record:

1982 - present Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Associate Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan  
1976 - 1982 Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, and Assistant Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan  
1975 – 1976 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, and Visiting Assistant Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Myers is a talented and dedicated instructor. His courses are well received by students and they give him strong scores in their evaluations. He is also a successful graduate student mentor and has trained some of the finest mammalian systematists in the world. In 1995 he launched the *Animal Diversity Web*, which has become a world-class educational resource for students from kindergarten to college. This novel educational tool serves 250,000 pages of content daily to 30,000 site visitors. He has received grant support for the site and developed productive collaborations with researchers in K-12 education to develop inquiry-based curricula to study biodiversity.

Research – Professor Myers is a highly respected mammalian systematist. His research historically focused on the systematics and biodiversity of South American mammals and he continues to work in this area with students and collaborators. More recently, he has focused on the biogeography of mammals with particular attention to the effects of climate change. He had the prescience over twenty years ago to see that long-term data would be needed to evaluate effects of climate change and this research is now coming to fruition. Professor Myers' published work is of high caliber and is influential.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Systematics of the genus *Akodon* (Rodentia: Sigmodontinae) in southeastern Brazil and implications for the biogeography of the *campos de altitude*,” with P. R. Goncalvez, et al., *Miscellaneous Publications*, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, 197, 2007, pp. 1-24.

“Building a biodiversity content management system for science, education, and outreach,” with C. S. Parr, et al., *Data Science Journal*, 4, 2005, pp. 1-11.

*Mammalian Diversification: From Chromosomes to Phylogeography*, co-edited with E. A. Lacey, University of California Press, 2005.

“A phylogeny of the Neotropical nectar-feeding bats (Chiroptera, Phyllostomidae) based on morphological and molecular data,” with B. Carstens and B. L. Lundrigan, *Journal of Mammalian Evolution*, 9, 2003, pp. 23-53.

Curation – Under Professor Myers’ guidance, the Museum of Zoology has seen a period of significant growth and the modernization of its mammal research collection, which is one of the top three collections in the nation. He computerized the catalogue of specimens and made them more accessible to scholars and the public. He also enhanced research activities by accessioning rare and valuable specimens.

Service – Professor Myers’ service has included membership on the departmental Executive, Admissions, Graduate Student Evaluation, and Diversity Committees. He has been active at the College level on the Information Technology Committee, the Public Understanding of Research Committee, and on the Biological Station Executive Committee. Outside the University, he has served as an advisor to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, on review committees for the American Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum, and on the Science Advisory Committee of The Nature Conservancy.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The university is fortunate to have a scholar of Phil’s caliber in its academic ranks. ... His publications are characterized by well-thought-out questions addressed through careful, studious inquiry with analyses and results that are clearly presented... Just the way it’s supposed to be done.”

Reviewer (B)

“He is well known...for the Animal Diversity Web. ... I was unaware of the BioKIDS projects prior to receiving the promotion package...Myers and his colleagues have created a dramatically important resource for instilling the excitement of science in primary school kids.”

Reviewer (C)

“His wide-ranging research...has changed over the years to involve the latest technologies and approaches, and his curatorial and collecting activities are essential for the Museum. ... His work is well-reasoned, meticulous, and well-regarded by other mammalogists, and his field studies...have led to an eclectic and interesting set of papers on mammalian systematic and evolutionary biology.”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. Myers’ obvious strength--and certainly his greatest value to the University of Michigan--is his focus on teaching and his pioneering efforts in the area of Web-based learning. ... Dr. Myers has a long and praiseworthy record of contributions to the University of Michigan, and I think that these contributions should be recognized by promoting him to Full Professor.”

Reviewer (E)

“...his knowledge of mammalian ecology and natural history also is extensive, and is reflected in his more recent work on the impact of global climate change on mammals in Michigan. This research...has tremendous potential to demonstrate the impact of putative climate change... It is a strong testament to Dr. Myers’ effectiveness as a mentor that many of his students have become highly regarded and very well known as well.”

Reviewer (F)

“Dr. Myers is widely recognized as an authority on mammalian systematics (particularly, but not exclusively on Neotropical rodents) and population biology... ..Myers has a remarkable record of training some of the finest professional mammalogists in the world.”

Reviewer (G)

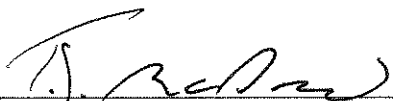
“Dr. Myers is an extremely well-respected national and international scholar. His research on biogeography is exemplary and is published in rigorously reviewed journals. ... He has literally set higher standards for mammalian systematic studies, and he is one of the country’s top researchers in the field.”

Reviewer (H)

“Phil is one of the senior mammalian systematists and population ecologists in the country, particularly among those within the museum-based community. ...work that he has published set the standard at the time of publication, and much of it has continued to define that standard subsequently. ... The Animal Diversity website he developed has been exceedingly successful and remains a major teaching tool, I would argue, for most (if not all) vertebrate biology and mammalogy courses taught in this country.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Myers is highly respected as an authority on mammalian systematics. He has made truly extraordinary contributions to teaching and science education. The Executive Committee, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and I recommend that Associate Professor and Associate Curator Philip Myers be promoted to the rank of professor of zoology, with tenure, and curator, Museum of Zoology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence McDonald, Dean  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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