

# SMALL ARCHAEOHYRACIDS FROM CHUBUT, ARGENTINA AND CENTRAL CHILE: IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANS-ANDEAN TEMPORAL CORRELATION

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ABSTRACT--We describe small-bodied archaeohyracids of transitional Eocene-Oligocene age from Chubut Argentina, including two from Santiago Roth's important but poorly known Cañadón Blanco locality, and two occurring in the Tinguiririca Fauna of the Andean Main Range from central Chile. Three taxa are recognized. We refer specimens from both Patagonia and the central Andes to one of these, initially named *Arachaeohyrax gracilis* by Roth (1903), but receiving a new generic designation here. A diminutive form from Cañadón Blanco and an intermediate sized form from Chile are each recognized as new species. These taxa help to clarify temporal correlation of lithostratigraphic units currently located on opposite sides of the Andean divide, and aid in the recognition of a biochronologic interval, the early Oligocene (to possibly late Eocene)-aged Tinguirirican, interposed between the classical Mustersan and Deseadan "ages" of the South American land mammal succession.